

Public Libraries

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Books for Men*

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The early history of most of the public libraries of the country shows that in the majority of cases the initiative in establishing the first collections of books was taken by the women of the community. Miss K. L. Sharp's History of Illinois libraries contains such statements as these:

Books were bought by the ladies of Alton for \$165.

The Ladies' library association introduced a course of lectures.

The Current topic class, composed of ladies, formed a library association.

The association was organized in 1876 by a few ladies.

The library was established by the W. C. T. U., after the village council had failed to secure a half-mill tax.

Seven women organized the Taylorville library club.

The library was organized by the Tuscola women's club.

and so forth. In fact, the ladies, *and* the women, seem to have a decided majority in the matter of library establishment.

In the matter of organization, management and use of the small libraries, women still have the preponderance. While we know that women are in no sense the leisure class, still they are better able to arrange their work so as to leave opportunity for reading and for other recreation than are the men. The fag end of the day is no time for Mr Blank to sit down with Kant's Critique of pure reason or Tocqueville's Democracy in America; but Mrs Blank may be able to crowd in a free hour between getting the children off to school and preparing the

lunch against their return, in which to arrange the material on her paper for the club, or to skim the pages of the latest novel she could draw from the public library.

Another reason why men do not use the small library as much as the women do, is that the material in which they are interested, the books on farming, shop practice, law or engineering, are often out of date or even entirely absent from the shelves of the small library. This is hardly to be wondered at, for the book fund will scarcely admit of the purchase of books to fill demands already established, without buying books with which to create a demand.

Mr E. F. Stevens, of Pratt institute, at the A. L. A. meeting of 1914, wrote this paragraph, which serves excellently well both as a text for this discourse and for the sermon itself; for it comprises in a short space a statement of the need which confronts the small library, and of the way in which it may be met:

Nothing is needed to convince men that a utility is a utility save the satisfying use of it. When they have found that the library speeds them on in the direction of the day's occupation, then it becomes easy for them to learn that the library can also get them far removed from it. And when the working-man fully comprehends the working library and by means of it is introduced to the diverting library, he becomes a man with the greatest capacity for usefulness, and the library's conquest of the community is finished.

Mr Stevens, in his large library of technical and scientific books, thinks that men look for the useful books first, and then for the diverting. While that may be so in the majority of cases, still librarians sometimes find the reverse to be the case; and it behooves us to furnish both

*Read before Illinois library association, Ottawa, October 12, 1916.

the working library and the diverting library, if we are to sweep on to the "conquest of the community."

The librarian of the small library is not without aids to the selection of technical books. There are many lists prepared by people who have had much experience in the matter. Since the problem of the working library is different in each locality, consult the intelligent men of your town. They will tell you, if you ask them—but they are not likely to volunteer the information—what subjects they would most like to find discussed in up-to-date books, and sometimes they can tell you the titles of the books they wish to use. Much free material, or at small cost, can be obtained from the state and national departments. For instance, the Farmers' bulletins, when classified and cataloged separately, are extremely valuable in a farming community. The Census report, the Education bureau's pamphlets, the Labor bulletins, all contain material much sought after. If you have money to spend, the Encyclopedias of the American technical society, on electricity, civil and mechanical engineering, furnish an excellent nucleus for a department of technical books. A set of 12 volumes edited by J. F. Johnson, called *Modern business*, provides material which was formerly difficult to find, on every subject related to modern business. The eagerness with which it has been taken out by our business men proves that there is a real need for such material.

I shall not take time to discuss the working library further, believing that the problem of each library can be most easily solved at home. I hope that in this I am not like the gardening book which I once consulted to find out how to raise tomatoes. The book said: "Since every one knows how to raise tomatoes, we shall not take up space to discuss it."

The diverting library is somewhat more difficult to choose. No one knows better than the librarian how differently the same book will appeal to each person who reads it. Still, there are many books which do not come under the con-

demnation voiced by one of our "lady readers." In a copy of Lincoln's "Mr Pratt" we once found a note addressed to the small boy who brought back the books. "Dear Bobby," she wrote, "please take this book back and get me another, but not like this one. It is a good book for a man, but awful for a lady."

The books which are mentioned below appeal to all readers, though they are especially attractive to men. The male reader welcomes most greatly those books which take him away from his daily life; the fascination of distant lands and strange adventures is one which few men can resist. The vagabond in any land, whether in truth or fiction, irresistibly attracts the man who rises each day at the same hour, and goes through a routine hardly different in any detail from yesterday. He likes to read of the traveler who never knows what each minute will bring forth, what scenes new and strange his eyes will light upon in the course of the day. W. J. Locke's *Beloved vagabond*, in his Gallic irresponsibility, Joseph Conrad's strange roving sailors, and his stranger women; Will Comfort's breathless adventurers with always a touch of the supernormal; Western stories of all degrees, from the wild melodramatic Zane Grey to the accurate art of Owen Wister: all these take a man out of himself, recreate him, help to compensate for the monotony of his everyday life.

And if these unreal people—though it is true some of them are so nearly real that we should recognize them if we met them on the street—are attractive to read about, how much more so is your actual vagabond, who tells of his adventures with the added vividness that comes from experience? Harry A. Franck is one of these modern heroes of adventure. His *Vagabond Journey Around the World* reads like a new *Odyssey*, with the exception that the hero is never in the least homesick, but seems to find himself entirely at home, whether among beach-combers in France, Arabs in Palestine, or the Hindus in Burma, the land of pagodas. He saw the life of the people, the very poor, as few or none have seen

it before, and among the 502 octavo pages of his book there is not one which will not inspire the man who loves adventure with the desire to read the other 501.

But of all modern vagabonds, the most beloved is Stephen Graham, an Englishman of whom that interesting volume, "Who's Who," says "he was attracted to Russia by the spirit in Russian literature, gave up life in London and took his chances with Russian peasants and students, with whom he lived in Little Russia and Moscow." He himself says in his prologue to *A Vagabond in the Caucasus*, "The prose of this book is the story of my travels; the poetry, when the reader may discern it, is the story of my heart." And prose and poetry are alike fascinating. The remarkable nature of the man, with his overwhelming love of humanity, combined with the simplicity of his style, simplicity which is more vivid than the most cunning art, imbue his books with a quality of unforgettableness. Entirely unbound by the traditional English insularity, he tramps through the Caucasus, or through Russian Central Asia, seeing the Russian peasant with the eyes of a man who wishes to find true manhood and womanhood, and who recognizes it everywhere, despite the difference in scenery or station of life.

Let me quote from his "Tramp's Sketches." Do not these words give the very essence of the joy of tramping?

As the sun comes up, behold the spirits evaporate, the films pass away from my eyes, and I am lighter, blither, happier, stronger. Then in my heart birds begin to sing in chorus. I am myself once more.

A fire, a kettle, and while the kettle boils, into the sea, giving my limbs to the sparkling, buoyant water. Then am I superself, if such an expression may be permitted. So passes the vagabonds' night.

And again:

The tramp's eyes open and then they open again: at midday his eyes are wider than those of indoor folk. He is nearer to the birds, because he has slept with them in the bush. They also are nearer to him, because the night has left her mysterious traces upon his face and garments, something which the humans cannot see, but which the wild things recognize right enough.

Graham is most successful when writing about the Russian peasant, whom he loves. His book on America is not so sympathetic, possesses less insight. But through all of his books there runs that wild, free spirit of the road, of the man "on his own" as the English say, bound by no necessity to work, finding friends everywhere because of the power of his own friendship for all humanity.

While Graham adds to the interest of his subject the charm of his delightful and flowing style, there are certain strange and unknown parts of the globe about which it would seem well-nigh impossible to write an uninteresting book. The polar regions, both north and south, have been the subject of numerous volumes of travel and experience, ranging from the slangy and cheerful *Tenderfoot* with Peary, by Borup, to the huge volumes by Nansen, Peary, Shackleton and Amundsen, which combine the narrative of the expeditions with the scientific facts accumulated by the explorers. All of them have the attraction of the wild waste spaces, of the dangers bravely faced and met, of the hazards of cold and starvation. From all their pages the comradeship and "team spirit" of the courageous little companies shines as though written in letters of silver, and this, too, has its subtle attraction for business men who have time for few friendships in the hurry of their daily life.

To journey rapidly from the poles to the equator, darkest Africa is another part of the world about which few dull books have been written. The explorer in Africa, in contrast to those who plan the polar expeditions, goes into the country and adapts himself to conditions there, instead of planning his campaign at home and taking with him the companions and equipment which his foreknowledge of his needs has told him will be necessary. He chooses his followers from among the savages whom he finds there, whose characteristics are weirdly different from any peoples with whom the reader has come in contact. The recent explorations and hunting expeditions of Stewart E. White, Roosevelt, Selous, Churchill, and others have been described

most entertainingly by the men themselves, and the interest awakened here will not be satisfied by these books alone, but will lead to a desire for further knowledge of the great pioneers, Stanley and Livingstone; and even the accounts of missionaries, such as Crawford and Mrs McKenzie, are fascinating in the extreme.

In closing, let me mention a few more of the books which men have liked to read from our own library. The Adventures of Marco Polo, Jack London's Cruise of the Snark, and his wife's book on the same trip; Tom Johnson's *My story*, Neihardt, *The River and I*, a well written tale of a journey to the headwaters of the Missouri; lives of pioneers, like Thwaites' Daniel Boone; of soldiers, such as Nelson A. Miles and Funston; the lives of "men's men," Edward Steiner, Mark Twain, Lincoln, Lee and Conrad. All these and many more will attract the men of your community to your shelves, and lead them to the great books, of the world, those that have stood the test of time.

The A. L. A. Library Publicity Survey*
Willis H. Kerr, Emporia, Kansas, chairman,
A. L. A. publicity committee

Recently the American Library Association publicity committee undertook a library publicity survey. This is a brief and informal résumé of part of that survey. The full report, with accompanying statistics and conclusions, it is hoped, will be printed later.

First, the facts: The part of the survey addressed to libraries was mailed to 3,500 American public, college, and institution libraries a little more than a month ago. To date, 294 replies have been received, or 8.4 per cent. Obviously, one query is whether less than 10 per cent of our libraries are interested in publicity? To look at it more comfortably, if 30 per cent is the average number of replies to any questionnaire, we are one-third interested.

Estimates were asked as to how large an income a library should have in order

*Presented at A. L. A. meeting at Louisville.

to afford an advertising department with a member of staff in charge. The replies vary from \$5,000 to \$500,000. One said there never should be such a department. One sent back the query thus, "How large a surplus?"

There is wide divergence of opinion as to whether libraries should advertise at all.

From a large university library:

It is very wise indeed to emphasize the need of having something good to advertise before you begin an advertising campaign. If a library has to apologize for its material, it is in a rather poor position to advertise.

From a village library, with an income of \$1,000 annually:

One librarian is all that can be afforded, and her salary is necessarily small, but her time is certainly well occupied with the checking of from 1,300 to 1,500 books each month, together with cataloging, accessioning, mending, and reference work, which during the county high school session and months of club work forms no small part of the daily task. Under these circumstances we would not be justified in spending our limited funds for advertising.

From a large eastern public library: As I believe that millions are wasted annually on unnecessary and unwise advertising, so I believe that thousands may be squandered by us librarians unless we keep our heads and decline to be stampeded into this publicity vortex. At the same time I think that a "publicity agent" would be very useful in large libraries, provided she possessed common sense and did not try to supplant the librarian.

From a medium-sized library in Pennsylvania:

I do not at all consider it a simple question of percentage of expenditures. A library that possessed material really adequate to the needs of its constituency, if not generally used, would be justified in spending a very high percentage of its total income on publicity, till proper patronage was secured. On the other hand, a library that was daily forced to admit that its income was insufficient to purchase material its patrons were perpetually calling for would not be justified in spending on publicity much, if any, more than sufficient to print the monthly lists of accessions. . . . If the publicity expenditures were made with a view of increasing the library's income rather than of advertising its present collection and for each dollar so spent a dollar and a half increased income was secured, most libraries would feel justified in spending this year on publicity a sum equal

at least to their total receipts of last year. And this from a large library of New York state:

I don't believe there is any one answer to the publicity question. The fundamental thing about it is human interest. If the library is an interesting place it will get publicity in print and by word of mouth. The way to make a library interesting is to have it touch human nature and the spirit of the hour at as many points as possible. The bill for printing for this library will not be materially greater this year than last, but we are showing an increase of from 25 to 35 per cent in circulation over last year, month by month. Some of this is accidental, most of it I think is due to the fact that the newspapers and the public find that the library is an interesting thing to talk about and an interesting place to go and that it has a smiling welcome for everybody.

From a small library of the middle west:

Above all other factors I place personal contact with the people of a community. Our policy is to become identified in some way with every community movement, even to giving the time and personal services of the librarian in any good cause. We see to it that almost every community enterprise is worked out by committees which meet in the library building. It is important to go out and work with people, but it is more important to bring the people into the library building. The use of the library is then almost certain to follow.

From an Oklahoma library:

I am a firm believer in advertising books as well as other needed commodities, and think public libraries should be built on down town streets, where attractive window displays would attract the attention of the public to something *free* for their mental and physical uplift.

—It would pay the state organization to employ a good publicity expert to go from library to library and instruct the librarians how to reach the people.

—What is to be done when the library is some distance from the center of the city, so that it is an effort to people to visit it? Also, when the library building is so imposing and forbidding in aspect, both outside and inside, with its high granite steps, and almost overpowering marble interior, that people are actually uncomfortable when they enter and find they must traverse the long mosaic flooring to the loan desk, each footfall resounding. . . .?

—How shall we get the business men to "sense" the individual, commercial, and civic value of the public library? The local commercial club printed a poster called "Facts you should know about Our Town." The public library was not included, although

"miles of paving" and "miles of sewer" were.

—My chief problem is the minds of the library committee. Have tried several years to get permission to print a new edition of a technical list. Meanwhile several times the amount needed has been spent on ornamental shrubs.

I venture to state the following conclusions somewhat categorically, because there is no time this evening for any other method:

1. There is no magic or mystery about library advertising. It is a science. It must be based upon our stock in trade. It must be accompanied by service.

2. There is no hard and fast method to be followed, no fixed percentage to be spent on publicity. We must each study our conditions and lay out our campaign accordingly.

3. State library commissions need to study and help more with the publicity problems of small village libraries. In many cases, I believe, it will be found to be a fundamental matter of librarianship, to be helped only by training.

4. College and university libraries have a publicity duty from which they are not excused by their assured clientele.

The Public Library and War Preparedness

The public library is doing its bit in helping the people of Binghamton in their patriotism by making itself a center for the activities which are springing up in answer to urgent necessity.

Scarcely had the troops of Europe completed their mobilization in the fall of 1914 when the Binghamton public library had begun its mobilization of another sort—the collecting of material to withstand the siege of questions which the public soon sent battering against its resources. The first demand was for maps and these the library supplied in several sizes. Large maps were backed to lie on the tables of the reading and reference rooms. Wall maps were hung in conspicuous places and smaller maps were circulated. At this time a bibliography of books which would help in understanding the crisis was published in the newspapers. This article called attention to the histories of the countries involved, their governments and political conditions. The *New York Times* then began to issue *Current History of the*

European War and this was circulated as a magazine the complete volumes being bound later. The bulletin boards which are used in directing public interest and sentiment showed pictures of the conflict, with the men chiefly concerned. Books on the science of war, Bernhardi and Treitschke became popular. Books of biography of the Kaiser and his counselors, King George and the Czar, together with books on the armies of different countries were shelved in the main reading room. Then followed an enormous influx of books on the war itself as it was reported by men in power, men in the trenches, women in their homes and in the hospitals—books of scientific value and books of human interest. When America began to rouse to its need, floods of peace and preparedness propaganda came into the library. After the declaration of war, the bulletin boards bore the President's message, portraits of Wilson, Joffre, Viviani and Balfour, and biographies of Joffre and contemporary French history. At this time a wealth of material published by the governments officially, diplomatic relations, special reports, etc., which had been received from time to time were arranged, listed and made ready for use. Then of all the needs the most urgent was the demand from citizens and school boys for the manuals of army and navy service. So the library obtained from the government and every other available source precise information. Plattsburg manual, Manual for the medical department of the U. S. army, Field engineer manual, Manual for army bakers are typical titles. Copies of the textbooks in use in the Red Cross classes were purchased. A booklet listing these books is in the process of printing and will be distributed.

The library celebrated France day and honored the Foreign war missions by flying beside its American flag the tricolor, the Union Jack and the Italian flag. It has for circulation, flags (about 6 by 10 ft) of the Allies also those of Belgium, Cuba and Japan. There is a waiting list for their use in patriotic meetings, community chorus demonstrations, etc.

The library's part in solving the food problem has consisted in the free distribution of food and garden pamphlets issued by the National Emergency garden commission, United States department of agriculture, and Cornell university. About 1000 of these have been given out. In addition the library's collection of books on gardening has been placed near the delivery desk in a case with a large colored poster to attract attention. A registration was kept at the desk for those wishing to obtain the use of vacant lots for gardening, which were distributed by generous citizens through the activity of one of the women's clubs. Books on canning and preserving are already in use. Books on food value, economy and management, thrift and marketing are available.

Between the reading room and the children's department two great American flags hang as a constant reminder to all who enter—from our foreign friends to the tiniest child—"lest we forget." So the public library true to its name and tradition stands with its fingers on the pulse of national life.

E. LOUISE LAUDER.
Public library, Binghamton, N. Y.

Birmingham, Ala.

A War Service department has been created in the Public library, Birmingham, Alabama. It is housed in the main lobby at the entrance to the circulating department and is presided over by the reference librarian. The room has been equipped with shelves, display cases, bulletin board and a telephone.

Books, pamphlets and clippings that bear directly on the war or war work have been brought together in this department. On the bulletin board are maps showing the battle lines, a map showing the cantonment sites, officers' training camps, aerial training camps and various other points interesting from a military standpoint; also pictures and announcements of various sorts. The spaces on the walls are filled with recruiting, red cross and agricultural posters.

Qualities and Training Necessary for a Business Librarian

I am a strong believer in proper training for the librarian in the business library. Two years ago, when employed as assistant under Miss Hasse in the New York public library, I found that a great many readers who came to the Economics division inquired about matter connected with social work. I felt that my own efficiency would be greatly increased and my service would be better if I secured first-hand knowledge of social work. I became a visitor for one of the large charitable organizations and for a year and a half was continually engaged in work with the New York City poor. This I found most helpful to me in my service at the library. I brushed up my foreign languages and learned to use French, German and Spanish readily, and even gained a smattering of Italian. Occupational disease and sanitation, housing, minimum wage, thrift, employment,—all these problems that I ran across, in my daily activity brought home more closely the work in the Economics division. The books were no longer dead matter; they spoke of living, vital problems to me.

Last winter, when the war was getting nearer to us, questions in the Economics division turned more and more to war, and particularly to the financial side of the struggle. After consulting with Miss Hasse, who has won over more business men to the library than any other person in New York City today and who, to my mind, is one of our greatest teachers of library science, I went to work with a great banking house in Wall street. I learned the meaning and language of statistics, foreign exchange and trade, and the interrelations of history, politics and economics. The material in the Economics division came to mean more and more to me; with the increase in my own knowledge, my efficiency as an assistant in the division increased. I attribute my position today as the librarian of the greatest organization of business men

this country has yet seen, to my training and preparation through actual contact with business and economic problems.

While I believe strongly in the library school, its teaching today is not fitted for the librarian in business. Its training is too formal, it is too much hemmed in by rules, it lacks teachers that inspire, that help to build individuality and self-reliance. The successful business man is always a pioneer; he is forever blazing a new trail. How many librarians have the courage to depart from the orthodox systems of classification and work out a system for themselves? How often do we find a catalog, that boon of the librarian, the bane of the business man! The more I have seen of special libraries, the more I have been convinced that the library school today is out of touch with their needs. It has tended to uproot individuality and build up a scholasticism that is most alien to efficient, useful work.

The law of natural selection should work out as well in libraries as it does in nature. Each librarian should familiarize himself with the peculiarities of his own field, know how to and make his own classification, and plan his library as his employer plans his business. The banker does not follow the method of the chemist, nor does the fire insurance company follow the ways of the steel corporation. Each has a problem of its own. Each seeks out the means by which it can, with the least labor and expense, best function and survive. The method of Stone and Webster will not fit the library of the Bureau of Railway Economics, nor will the system of the National City Bank of New York answer in the Insurance Library Association of Boston. How many special librarians work out their problems with the same care that the business man does? Do you not too often find the special library a replica of the public library, where the librarian has carefully duplicated, only in a smaller way, what he has seen at the public library? If you were desirous of keeping a canary, would you build a penitentiary in steel and masonry? Would you set a beehive on the foundations of a skyscraper? Yet is not the special librarian

*Read before the Special libraries association at Louisville, June 26.

too often organizing a department store, when he should be planning a specialty shop?

Recently Miss Hasse has been advocating a closer relation between the public library and the business man. The library, she urges, is a public utility, not a futility. In service and efficiency it should be a leader in the community. It should be a living organism, not a morgue. But the public library today is often out of touch with the problems that confront the business man. More and more the business man is coming to rely on his own special library. Wherever the librarian is doing his work well, the library has become a partner in the business. The special library today entails specialized training and specialized knowledge. It calls for individuality, for initiative, for forcefulness, for a higher type of ability and leadership than the public library. It calls for modern training in a modern way; training which the library school does not give because it does not understand the business man, because it lacks the teacher and teaching—training which comes only from a real comprehension of business problems built upon a sound theoretical knowledge of economics.

The public library today is in the mechanical, the architectural stage. More attention is paid to fine buildings, to mechanical appliances, to outward form than to inward thought. This mechanical trend has tended to make of the public librarian an automaton. The library school, often connected with the public library, and generally drawing its staff from those with public library experience, has followed this trend for the mechanical, the automatic. But the business librarian must be alert, must be aggressive, whether he has a 10 by 12 room in a basement, or a nest in the top of a skyscraper. It is work, effort toward a definite goal, thought directed to the important problem, a feeling that the business depends as much on him as it does upon any of the executives, that gives always that joyous, forceful air to his library. The business librarian is a whole public

library staff in himself,—administrator, head cataloger, chief of the order division, of the circulating department. What does the library school offer to him, to fit him for his work? Glance at the list of courses in any of the library school catalogues and read the answer for yourself. How many library schools who admit students without college training, give even an elementary course in economics, so essential in any kind of work, whether in the library or not?

The library school is a good institution but it is marking time. It needs air. It needs to be modernized. It must respond to the call of the present.

J. H. FRIEDEL.

* * *

I wish to comment on Mr. Friedel's letter; for I have been for several years one of the group which has promoted the business library and the special library ideas, and I would greatly regret to have the opinion go abroad that I am in sympathy with what Mr. Friedel says.

With the spread of the special library idea has come a group of catch words and phrases such as almost always accompany the eager acceptance of a new cult.

In Denver, nearly 25 years ago, when I was engaged in school work as well as work in a library, the kindergarten idea was quite at the head of the ever-changing procession of educational methods. Denver was one of the first large cities to add the kindergarten to its schools in a wholesale way. I knew many of the kindergarten teachers quite intimately, and I then noted for the first time the danger which threatens the apostles of a new doctrine. The danger is that the new doctrine, especially if it is fairly popular, will breed in its followers a certain conceit of knowledge, a rather marked disdain toward the older body of doctrine from which the new doctrine sprang, and give birth to a set of words and phrases—a sort of esoteric lingo—the use of which by the new disciples arouses in them an agreeable sense of separateness and a mild hypnosis of superiority. Well, I could give you ex-

amples of the lofty vocabulary of those Kindergarten teachers, young, alert, slightly educated and pedagogically equipped with the rudiments of a new and popular—and in essence most admirable—educational doctrine, using their gift of a new tongue to confound their uninitiated colleagues. But it is quite unnecessary to do that. I mention these accompaniments of one new cult only to illustrate the dangers that lie in wait for us proponents of a new and rather popular notion in library work, that of the special or business library. And I am sure that Mr. Friedel will pardon me, being one who has tried quite hard to forward this novelty in book and print administration, if I tell him that he seems to have been temporarily overcome by the dangers I speak of. He writes as though he thought the mission of the special librarian is to do things which the old type of librarian never heard of; as though that mission demanded for its proper performance an equipment of knowledge, experience and training which the schools have never heard of, or do not approve, or look upon as non-essentials.

The autobiographic details which Mr. Friedel gives us admirably illuminate his thought. He has been fortunate enough to be able to equip himself with a certain armamentum of experience and learning, and to him,—being apparently quite successful in his work,—it appears obvious that the schools, and especially the library schools, should equip their students in like manner. In making this suggestion I fear Mr. Friedel forgets that a library school's year is about nine months long and that much of that time must be given to the elements of the technique of the mastery of things in print. Also he forgets, I fear, that to acquire the patter of modern uplift work, of surveys, statistics, finance and commerce, is no long task and, while well worth the labor for every librarian, is not something which, when acquired, makes one an expert. I recall, for example, that many years ago I observed with great interest the domestic manners and the mental equipment of a group of

Ute Indians; but if this gave me the sensation of a trained ethnologist those sensations soon left me!

The fact is that to be a special librarian is not to be a high priest or to perform any sacred and secret rites; nor does being a good special librarian, however successful, lead a discriminating person to feel that he or she is in any sense superior to a good librarian of any other kind.

A moment's sober thinking will convince all of you that the art of being a special librarian is not so new, modern, recondite, peculiar, difficult or extraordinary as to demand for its successful practice, for any very special training over and above that included in a good general education, abundant, open-eyed experience and a course in a standard library school. Also you can easily see that success in a special library does not give one occasion for looking down on librarians of the ordinary, all-around kind.

And, once again, you can see how easy it is for the enthusiastic practitioner of a new branch of an old art, having acquired the novel patter of the new art, to use that patter to hypnotize himself and his colleagues into thinking that he and they have discovered a new Pacific and that their eyes have been specially anointed to see its wonders.

I have found fault with library schools: but largely for the same reasons that I now find fault with self-entranced special librarians because they pranced about the library field and thought they were the whole library circus, being in fact merely fresh and young and not broken to harness. As to their being too scholastic, as Mr. Friedel puts it—that is a charge which will amuse for many a day. If scholasticism has crept into Pratt, then either my many years acquaintance with Miss Rathbone,—to mention a library school manager who happens to be present,—has misled me greatly as to her aims, or I never learned the meaning of the word! It is doubtful if Mr. Friedel has acquired a mass of peculiar and high-powered knowledge about the world, or if the special library

is a peculiar and sacro-sanct institution,—very doubtful. It would be nearer the truth to say that out of the great stream of print which the general librarian tries to master and guide, a small part has been found of special value to certain workers in certain special fields. These small ponds, or rivulets, or outflows from the great stream, the special librarian tries to make of very special utility by a very intensive administration thereof. For this he is given,—if he is fortunate,—time, money and apparatus. For this he also has,—if he is fortunate,—an equipment of wide knowledge and experience in a general library, plus a year's intensive study in a library school. That seems to be a fair statement of the case. In the light of that statement let me once more warn you against developing the theory that being a special librarian makes one a specialist in anything; and also let me remind you that the great specialists are few and that the habit of dubbing one's self a specialist is a habit that greatly fosters unwarranted pretensions.

JOHN COTTON DANA.

Exchange of Service

Why cannot the idea of the exchange professorship be extended to libraries? There would be several advantages and the disadvantages which might come to mind can more than be met in argument by the overweight of experience and vision which would be acquired. Indeed, the thought conveyed by the word disadvantage resolves itself into the idea of personal inconvenience which need not be considered of great importance as far as argument is concerned. Those who have a pet vacation spot or a cosy and comfortable boarding place or any other hobby, might be disinclined to move their household goods to strange environment, but if we as Americans have any claims to our boasted adaptability, librarians should be as flexible as other persons. It is true that from the very fact that we have so many demands and such varied interests, we are less likely to "get in a rut" or "go stale" than is the case in some lines of work, but at the same time, oppor-

tunity for some new viewpoints would be provided by such a plan which would add new interest to the profession. It is not advocated that this plan should be generally pursued and that every restless spirit who is seized with *wanderlust* should be permitted to indulge his or her whims. Rather that such exchanges be made after a definite term of service in one place. There will always be those also who have home cares and responsibilities which prevent them from leaving their positions for more than a brief time. Any general plan can have exceptions.

The advantages naturally divide themselves into two classes, professional and climatic and environmental. No matter what the preferences, enthusiasms, or successes of the library worker are, contact with other than the accustomed public, administration problems either of entire library or department, knowledge of varying types of inhabitants and their characteristics, local history, accommodation to limited income when a more generous one has been allowed—all these and many more items can be brought to mind which would give a breadth of view and a wider professional experience to the worker. New ideas in reference, circulation and children's departments would be gained and added to the general equipment of the exchange worker. Nor would the knowledge gained in many cases be any greater than that contributed. Extreme types of libraries might be benefited by an infusion of spirit from each other, so that a tinge of conservatism would be added to the loosely constructed fabric of administration and the "dry bones" of some of the ultra-conservative would take on new life.

The climatic and environmental advantages are equally important and perhaps more numerous. At the Mackinac conference the need of recreation for librarians was discussed and some one even dared to suggest a sabbatical year. Nothing has come of the latter idea, as there are few library boards with either the inclination or the funds to permit such a riot of rest and change for their library

employees. Even if inclination were present in their hearts and money in their treasuries, most cities prohibit by ordinance the payment of money to anyone except for service actually rendered, and rightly so. Therefore, the sabbatical year with pay is next to an impossibility for the workers employed by city, state, or nation, and the result is that a year's rest would be taken at an enforced loss of salary, which few can afford.

If a worker in Florida, New Orleans, southern California, or any of our semi-tropical sections of country feels the need of one cold winter to set her blood tingling and stimulate her energies, why not give her a season in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Milwaukee—even Cleveland or Pittsburgh? A librarian in one of our northwestern coast cities expressed her feelings thus: "I have worked so long in this mild, moist climate that I long for a winter such as I used to know, with the snow stinging my face and the cold such that I must hurry my homeward walk to keep my blood in circulation and myself warm." And yet she could not afford to spend a winter in another city unless she could have employment. Those tired of long, cold winters would find a welcome change in the genial lands of sunshine which our country affords. Then there are the dwellers in high and low altitudes. Why cannot the sea-coast people have the exhilaration of the mountains and the mountain people have the relaxation of the sea? We have such a variety of climate, that anyone wanting or needing a change could find somewhere what she wants.

Environment is equally important if we are to know the people of our own country. It is trite to say that we are one nation, but some do not realize it either in spirit or in fact, as there has never been any point of contact. Not only should East meet West, but North should meet South, every one in a spirit of receptive sympathy. How much more understanding of mind and heart would we gain if we could live among, know and adapt ourselves to a different type of population than that in our own city or a type of people which we know best. The

real value of such contact would be tremendous.

Such a plan would not be advisable, perhaps, for all employees. It might be limited to head librarians and heads of departments, with special consideration for other cases. In many cities, civil service ordinances would hamper, if not prevent, an exchange of employees. It need not be confined to public libraries. Why shouldn't a reference librarian have experience in a commission office, a state organizer be temporarily a cataloger, or a training-class instructor do reference work?

Fear that organization of staff would be disrupted to any great extent need not be entertained seriously. Not a great number would take advantage of the opportunity at any one given time and the entire control of the matter would be in the hands of the librarian and trustees anyway. Many would find it personally inconvenient and there are also many souls too timid or too conventional to take the plunge. Why is it not possible, however, for those who would like to have a broader experience?

RENA REESE,
Public library, Denver, Col.

First County Library in Michigan

Dear PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I wonder if you will be interested in a bit of news which is giving us great satisfaction here? Perhaps you already know that our State legislature at its last session passed a County library bill? The M. L. A. had been petitioning and working for this for over six years.

Yesterday our county supervisors voted unanimously to give a part of the county taxes towards the support of this library, which, with this amount will be enabled to take up the work. So to-day we are rejoicing over the honor of being the first County library in Michigan.

Yours very truly,
KATHERYNE SLENEAU,
Public library, Port Huron, Mich.

How much finer to build than to wreck, to boost than to bang.

A Mistaken Judgment

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

May I call attention through P. L. to an article by Miss Adelaide R. Hasse in the October number of *The Journal of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae* which, I am sure, conveys an entirely erroneous idea of library school graduates, and of library work as a whole, to the readers of this magazine?

In the opening paragraph, Miss Hasse says, "My convictions do not happen to coincide with those of the majority of my colleagues"; which is very true, and I will not argue this point with her.

Next, the writer states, "The graduates of the library schools of today, I maintain, stop learning when they leave school. I am speaking of the *average*, of course. To attend lectures, even to pass an examination, does not necessarily imply the possession of a learning mind. A learning mind is what every library worker should have." Such remarks only further tend to make our profession quite misunderstood, and certainly there is already plenty of misunderstanding of library work on the part of the layman, as it is. These remarks are not fair to librarians in general. To say that the *average* librarian stops learning when she leaves library school, is, in my estimation, perfectly preposterous. There are exceptions, of course, and these Miss Hasse must be thinking of, but I heartily disagree with her when she says the *average*. For most modern librarians realize that unless they are constantly learning, their libraries will not be giving the right kind of service, and neither will their libraries be taking their rightful places in the community. And from a purely selfish standpoint, in a profession that is constantly being added to by clever, capable library school graduates (and others who are not) most librarians realize that unless they are on the alert to learn, unless they have constantly the open mind, they will very quickly be superseded.

Miss Hasse lauds the Government reports and seems to think that Uncle Sam gets every cent's worth of his money in-

vested there, and that the taxpayers of the public library do not. She states that the administration of the Navy Department in the year 1915 cost the Government but \$867,715; while the salary roll of the New York public library for 1915 was \$844,468. "Why is it," she asks, "That the same amount of money which produces such tremendous results in the Government Bureaus produces such pitifully negligible results when spent for public libraries?" Now I venture to assert that the work accomplished by the New York public library staff in 1915, while it did not compare in quality with the work of the Navy department, more than held its own in quantity.

Quoting from the article again, "The inspirational reaction is almost entirely absent. With one or two exceptions, I do not remember any unusual work being done by library school graduates. But it is difficult to see how an occupation sought by the great majority of those engaged in it as a refuge rather than as a career, could be other than the grave it is." Miss Hasse is evidently not familiar with library work and workers in general and certainly not in the Middle West (and I do not feel that I am getting personal when I speak of the Middle West, for I have been here but a short time) where there are many live and very much alert library school graduates that have been for years making their libraries a real and vital force in their communities. Moreover they are doing unusual work, and the inspirational reaction is *not*, by any means, absent.

It would be interesting to know just how and where Miss Hasse met her specimens from which she draws her conclusions. As one follows her associations and connections with library workers one cannot help wondering. Miss Hasse does know *Public Documents*. Does she know human documents as well?

The library schools of the day should not be criticized for not preparing specialists instead of general public library workers. They do not claim to do this; the making of specialists is an after development, and probably some day in the

future a graduate school for the training of specialists will be endowed.

In the meantime I hold a brief for the library school graduate of today—that the average *are* of a learning mind, constantly on the alert, and constantly progressing and making their work and their libraries of real effective service to the people.

ALMIRA R. WILCOX.

A. L. A. Red Cross Ambulance Fund

At the Louisville conference of the A. L. A. it was proposed at one of the general meetings that the members of the association, as an immediate evidence of their earnest desire to do their "bit," subscribe to an ambulance fund for an A. L. A. Red Cross ambulance. The proposal met with warm response and a number present subscribed or gave at once. The undersigned was requested by the association to take charge of all arrangements connected with this fund. All effort to solicit further subscriptions was temporarily abandoned while the million-dollar drive for books was under way. Will all who now feel so inclined, therefore, send in their contributions as soon as convenient?

As a report of progress, the chairman presents the following letter, the latest received from the American Red Cross at Washington, in response to inquiries made because of certain rumors which it was desired to verify:

August 8, 1917.

Dear Miss Hitchler:

The entire question of ambulances here in Washington has just been turned over to me and your letter of July 16 has been called to my attention.

We are not yet able to send Ford ambulances to France, but we have, however, several other uses for money intended for the ambulance service. Several of our base hospitals need ambulances of the larger type, that is a G. M. C. three-quarter (3/4) ton truck chassis with regulation United States Army ambulance body. This costs now approximately \$1,900 delivered to the hospital here. These will be shipped to France for service with the United States troops and it seems to me a very fitting use for ambulance money. In addition to this, the Medical corps of the United States army are very anxious to receive gifts of ambulances through us, preferably of the larger

type. One of the most pressing needs, however, is for kitchen trailers for use with the ambulance companies for service in France. Each section requires a kitchen trailer. These cost \$725 apiece delivered in New York and we require immediately about 100 of them.

If you raise money for any of the above purposes there will be no expense keeping them up as they are turned over to the United States Government and all up-keep charges are taken care of. May I suggest that since it will probably take some time to conduct a campaign to raise money that you keep it as general as possible? The ambulance situation, of course, changes from day to day and it might be that by the time you have raised your money, we can send an ambulance to France, Russia, Italy or Greece. In other words, we would definitely prefer to have you raise the money for ambulance purposes in general so that we may use the funds when they become available for whatever purpose seems most necessary at the time. I realize that it is much easier to raise money for specific purposes, but I feel quite sure that if you will explain the situation, you will be able to raise the money as I suggest.

I hope that you will pardon these suggestions on my part, but it really seems to me that this is the best outlet at present for funds which are intended for ambulance purposes. Let me express our deep appreciation of your patriotic interest and the hope that you will see fit to send us some money with which to purchase either one of these large ambulances or a kitchen trailer.

Yours very truly,

WELLS BLANCHARD,
Department of Military Relief.
Assistant Director General.

Including the one gift of \$500, a total of \$850 has been received thus far.

As it is practically impossible to keep the various subscribers informed of every step taken, and freedom of action is imperative if results are to be attained, the chairman, unless otherwise instructed, will assume that all contributions may be used in a manner deemed best by her, after careful consideration and consultation with experts.

Just two questions: Does anyone want his contribution returned? May I go ahead? Any suggestions will be gratefully received by

THERESA HITCHLER,
Chairman.

26 Brevoort place, Brooklyn.

***Helping to Conserve Labor**

We hear and read much about the necessity of conservation in many directions, that it is important now to forego certain privileges and prerogatives enjoyed under normal conditions in times of peace. For example, the National Council of Defence has issued certain restrictions upon the express companies with regard to the hours within which they shall make collections. The council also suggested to the large retail merchants that their deliveries to customers be curtailed so far as might be found practicable. Similar restrictions and curtailments have been recommended and put into practice in other fields, all to relieve the labor shortage caused by the withdrawal of the thousands of young men answering the army draft and the call to arms.

That the librarians of the country are in hearty accord with the general efforts at conservation is evidenced by their co-operation with the A. L. A. in its various plans to help the country and the soldiers in the present crisis. The book and printing industries have seriously felt the removal of many trained young men, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill some of the vacancies. Every effort is being made to continue the customary services that librarians have learned to expect from the fully equipped and well-organized book stores, specializing in library business. As one dealer advertises, "Business is good, let us keep it so," it is not the intention or desire to permit the scarcity of material for clerks, checkers or order pickers to interfere too much with the shipping of goods, but it has been remarked by some of the large book concerns that quite a number of librarians are overlooking at least one place where the idea of labor conservation might be put into practice.

By continuing to submit long lists for quotations, the librarian calls for the services of a man whose time might be employed otherwise. Perhaps it is not generally realized that it requires a whole

*Extract from a letter received from a bookseller.

day to properly and correctly prepare a quotation of 15 to 20 pages of miscellaneous titles. Some of the larger dealers ordinarily employ three or four "quotation clerks," whose sole occupation is to consult the catalogs and make estimates on library lists. Why not help the bookseller just a little in solving his present labor problems by giving your book lists as outright orders. Of course, it is important to know that your library receives proper prices and discounts, but here it is recommended that your dealings be with a reputable and reliable bookseller who has the confidence of the librarian in all matters pertaining to the handling, filling and proper pricing of library book orders. In his excellent book, "The American Public Library," Dr Bostwick makes a similar recommendation, and just at this time it seems quite desirable to follow the suggestion. It has been repeatedly stated by several of the prominent booksellers that the library saves absolutely nothing by buying under the bid method, because precisely the same prices and discounts are given by the reliable and trustworthy houses on direct purchases as on quoted lists. There is, however, one positive saving, and that is the item of time and labor, both for the librarian as well as for the dealer. The subject is deserving of some thought and consideration.

Books by Henry George

A new edition of the complete works of Henry George is soon to be issued by *The Public*, now of New York City. To insure the widest circulation possible *The Public* will make a special price to libraries of not more than \$7, carriage paid. It is hoped to obtain a still lower price from the publishers, but the set will retail at \$12 when it is placed regularly on the market.

Exchange of Documents

The University of Oregon library has among its duplicates a large number of State school reports which it offers in exchange account. There are reports from 38 states, Ontario and Philippine Islands.

Civil Service Examination

A Civil Service examination will be held December 1, 1917, for position of cataloger in the Public library of St. Paul, Minnesota. It will be a non-assembled examination open to non-residents. Application should be filed not later than Nov. 28. Further information will be given by the Civil Service Commissioner, St. Paul, Minn.

As Others See Us

Henry R. Tedder, Librarian of The Athenaeum, London, writes to Dr F. P. Hill, chairman of the Finance committee of the War Libraries campaign, as follows:

My hearty congratulations on the work you are doing for war libraries. . . . I am a member of the War Library council which is working with the Y. M. C. A. This association has done wonders for the men in the field as well as in the training camps.

I have been a special constable for over two years. My duties include occasional work in helping to keep the streets. This morning I was with others holding back the crowds in front of Buckingham Palace when the King welcomed the 4,000 American troops who passed through London. A very fine body of men in excellent discipline. America has reason to be proud of the men she is sending to Europe.

Who Will Buy?

Some library must be interested in the following and make a good offer.

Dr Frank W. Gunsaulus of Chicago held as his choicest possessions for many years, the original proof sheets of Mendelssohn's "Elijah." He has offered this rare item for auction to help out the soldiers' book fund. He also issues an appeal to all owners of rare and precious books and manuscripts to part with one of their treasures for this purpose.

The volume of collected proof sheets of "Elijah" bears the changes made by Mendelssohn and William Bartholomew, who wrote the English words for the oratorio. It was written with the idea that Jennie Lind would sing the aria in concert at Covent garden, London. The volume contains the autograph letter of Mendelssohn introducing Jennie Lind to Henry Chorley, the musical author, in London.

Summer

An advertisement of *Summer*, a new novel by Edith Wharton, sent out by the Appleton Company last summer, had a dissertation that must have touched the hearts of librarians and made them zealous to duplicate the number of library copies as well as to recommend the volume to would-be purchasers. Here it is:

All her life she had longed for something to happen, something to break the dull monotony of the slow existence in the village where she lived. . . . Must she go on forever sitting alone in the village library where no one ever came?

And again,

This story probably has its counterpart in the lives of thousands of American girls living in cold, cruel cynical villages.

How she dreams all day in that library as the dust gathers thicker and thicker on the untouched books. Suddenly there appears . . . of course, the glorious creature called Man! and all is changed. A suggestion for the title of the English edition: *She did not advertise*; or, *Why librarians go wrong*.

The advertising leaflet states "This is an Appleton book." 'Twas well to make it easy for librarians to understand who it is that knows and appreciates the conditions under which they work. It saves time in finding out who is their friend.

A DOWN EAST LIBRARIAN.

A notice from the H. W. Wilson Co. reads as follows:

We have purchased a five-story building in New York city, which we shall occupy September 1. After that date all mail, including editorial copies, should be addressed to 958-964 University (Lind) avenue, New York city.

Free Gifts

A set of the *Chicago Herald* covering the period of June 1892-December 1894 (The World's Fair) is at the service of any library in a Middle-west city that would care to have it. Address Carter H. Fitzhugh, Lake Forest, Illinois.

A set of *Official Record of the Rebellion* may be had by any library that has use for it. Address Gordon W. Thayer, Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

| Public Libraries | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER | |
| Library Bureau | - - - - Publishers |
| M. E. AHERN | - - - - - Editor |
| Subscription | - - - - - \$2 a year |
| Five copies to one library | - - \$8 a year |
| Single number | - - - - - 25 cents |
| Foreign subscriptions | - - - \$2.25 a year |

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Progress—Success has crowned the efforts to finance the camp libraries.

At this time it is practically assured that the million dollars for a million books for a million men has been raised. The War service committee at a recent meeting requested Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, to assume general direction of the work. As the headquarters, which will be continued in Washington, will be in the Library of Congress, it will be possible for him to take this library service appropriately incident to his regular office as head of the National library. He will, however, have under him a salaried staff. This insures that the work of collecting and organizing the books for the camp libraries will be in the hands of competent people and will be effectively and properly administered.

A deplorable delay—For years the question of consolidating the printing of special lists has been discussed in A. L. A. circles with little or no results other than

to give a chance for talk that seems to have led nowhere.

At this time the need of such a plan is evident and pressing. Everyone and everything are urged to economize. "We must economize if we are to win the war." Yet one of the biggest leaks in library work is made by the duplication over and over again of printed lists by librarians, associations, and commissions. Even the A. L. A. Publishing Board and the Government are printing and distributing some things that could just as well wait. Why not make this the occasion to get together on consolidation of printed matter, save the duplicate expense, pool the savings and *buy a U. S. liberty bond*? It would do more good to everybody concerned and the start on cooperation and consolidation made under stress and trial might get under such headway and management as to be a permanent blessing when peace comes again. Let's try it!

Calling down the writers—First, Denver, and now Pittsfield and Lenox, Mass., have demanded that the books of certain authors who have offended the notions of the public be excluded from their public libraries.

Denver thinks Hamlin Garland has come near to treason in speaking of the spirit which led his father to enlist in the army in 1863 leaving a wife and children to run the farm, as an "overflow of sentimentality over a striped silken rag." It does sound ghoulish when one thinks of the times and of the men who made the supreme sacrifice. One cannot but feel that further and more drastic treatment is demanded by such an act.

Edith Wharton has offended Western Massachusetts by picturing unspeakable conditions as existing in its hill communities and the two cities named see so strong a resemblance that they resent the

implication. Knowing nothing of conditions there, one is not able to judge. But Mrs Wharton is said to have been a trustee and benefactor of the Public library of Lenox before taking up her work in France and an injustice towards her home town seems incompatible with her sense of fair play. Another incident of an author's intention might be a similar case as the story will show.

A query once put to Mr Eggleston, author of "Hoosier schoolmaster," as to why he chose Posey county, Indiana, for the setting of his story, elicited the reply that he chose the most cultured spot in the state that he might not be accused of painting a real picture of any community or people when he meant to portray his fancy of what might have been true somewhere under the pioneer conditions of the early days. But the reverse of his intentions stamped itself on the minds of the general public and "Hooppole township, Posey Co.," is a verity today with many of the unthinking readers of his book.

If Mrs Wharton's story is not true of the towns named, why worry? If it is, why not make it speedily untrue by getting all the citizens to read the story and then *to act!*

A wider critical service needed—The Pacific Northwest library association has a committee on subscription books, of which Miss Cornelia Marvin, State librarian of Oregon, is chairman. This committee investigates the publication of this class of books and sends mimeographed reports on them to members of the P. N. L. A. as early as possible after the books appear on the market. The comments are sincere, but frank. The idea is to prevent such a situation as is recorded in one of the libraries: "Our library has lately bought a set of *Messages of the Presi-*

dents, cost \$81.50, and we have never had but \$75 a year for our books."

The bulletins are well received and considered helpful by the librarians. Isn't there an idea here for development by the A. L. A. Publishing Board?

The A. L. A. might by a committee of both its Canadian and U. S. members understanding, start a movement that would render invaluable service.

The *A. L. A. Booklist* comes out in a new dress, a larger size, better quality of material and altogether makes an improved appearance. The title has dropped the cryptic letters A. L. A. and simply stands in bold open faced type, *The Booklist, a Guide to the Best New Books*. The price has not been advanced and the smallest library equipped with this and *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* as tools for an enthusiastic and intelligent librarian, can render a good account to its supporters.

The *London Times* has started to issue a special edition of that paper for filing in reference libraries, clubs, and other places that may wish to keep it permanently. A paper calculated to stand the stress of time, heat, etc., will be used for this special edition. A recent editorial in the *New York Times* calls attention to the great need of something of this kind being done by the great papers if the historical records of the present momentous era are to be preserved.

It will be recalled that a committee of the American library association working under the direction of Mr Cedric Chivers and Dr F. P. Hill of Brooklyn was started some years ago. The Brooklyn *Eagle* undertook to get out what was termed a library edition, but the effort was soon abandoned on account of the lack of financial support. There can be no question of the value of such a movement and it is hoped that the effort this time may be sufficiently supported to make it permanent.

Food Conservation

The United States Food Administration will issue a bulletin shortly with the idea that the libraries of the country shall give publicity to food conservation and how it can be accomplished. The bulletin is prefaced by a letter from Mr Hoover which expresses his confidence in the ability of the library to be of great assistance and compliments those libraries which have already contributed largely to food conservation. The bulletin will enumerate monthly, the food fact to be stressed and will give lists of books and pamphlets and other usable material. It will go directly every month to the librarians of the different states and at any time by writing directly to Miss Edith Guerrier, chief of the Library section of the Food Administration, librarians will receive immediate attention and information. The Washington headquarters has asked that a library director of the Food Administration be appointed for his state by each State Food Administrator. The duties of the Food Director will be

1) To make a list of all libraries which are in position to coöperate, and to send list to Washington.

2) To study how best the libraries can present the ideas of the Food Administration to their particular constituencies.

3) To write the libraries listed, asking for their coöperation, at the same time presenting a definite plan to be followed.

4) To call for monthly reports in duplicate form, from each coöoperating library. To comment on these and to file one for reference, returning the other to the librarian who sent it.

5) To keep in close touch with the Food Administration, to the end that the libraries coöoperating throughout the United States may give telling publicity to some one particular fact at one time.

6) In December or January, if the campaign seems successful, the library directors may be called to a conference in Washington.

Librarians have an opportunity to show convincingly that they are able to present an intelligent, common-sense utilization of the products of our country, with the elimination of waste which will not only be one of the greatest factors during the war, but will in time of peace make the United States the greatest democracy in the world.

An effort is being made to enlist every Public library in the country to serve in the work of food conservation. Each state is to have a library publicity director appointed by the Federal food administration to encourage exhibitions and co-operate closely with the U. S. food administration. This publicity director is usually the director of library activities for the state. Dr. Owen has been appointed in Alabama and Mr Sanborn in Indiana and the opportunity is offered to libraries everywhere to do effective work.

General plan suggested for library publicity

General—Give as much space as possible to display of material.

Books—Have a permanent collection of books on food production and food conservation.

Magazines—Call attention to articles on food in your magazines.

Pamphlets, Circulars, Leaflets—Get from your State agricultural college, your State agricultural department and from the Home Economics department of your state's universities free bulletins, pamphlets and leaflets for distribution.

Recipes—Start a file of economical recipes verified by home economics teachers or food experts.

Talks—Arrange for a series of talks for adults and story hours for children, showing the need for and method of saving.

Exhibitions—In coöperation with women's organizations, arrange for exhibitions which should be changed semi-monthly.

Bulletin boards—Have on bulletin board the latest available information from the Food administration.

To Keep up interest—Change a certain part of your collection semi-monthly according to suggestions of your Library publicity director.

The department has announced that it is prepared to supply all sorts of information about the war and about the voluntary organizations that are doing war work. It has a list of these organizations with the names of officers, addresses and headquarters.

Comments on A. L. A. Meeting (Continued)

With full appreciation of Louisville's delightful hospitality, I remain opposed to holding A. L. A. conferences other than in resorts or typically resort cities. In communities the size of Louisville, visiting librarians are submerged and are deprived of personal intercourse with their fellow workers. I enjoyed the program of library topics, rather than those of literary or of general cultural value, which can be heard to equal advantage elsewhere. I also approved the placing of less frequently heard members on the program.

CHALMERS HADLEY.

The Louisville meeting is the only conference which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Something in the atmosphere was inspiring, such as I have felt at no other conference. What was it? *Quien sabe?* What matter? It was there for me, and I was glad.

A. R. HASSE.

The share which American libraries and librarians are to have in our country's participation in the fight for democracy was obviously the outstanding interest of the Louisville conference. The work of the war committees and the eagerness with which their reports were awaited suggest what real concerted effort may mean for ourselves as well as for the work in hand.

Among the many treats offered us were various excursions and expositions of the work with the colored people, and the happy introduction into the program of the children's section of the two small black folk. Who can ever forget the tale of the Fisherman and his wife, or the imitable Gingerbread man!

ALICE I. HAZELTINE.

To have heard "The gingerbread man" was alone "worth the price of admission." The wonderful work that is being accomplished by the librarians of the colored branches at Louisville, so forcefully demonstrated at the children's librarians section, presents a state of development particularly interesting to southern librarians who are outlining

constructive work along these lines to meet the racial problem.

JESSICA HOPKINS.

My first impression of the conference was of the great impulse given to work by an immediate purpose. Our general purpose is great and burns with a holy fire, but the nerves become accustomed and incentive drops into habit, which is not enlivening. I wish the general subject of every conference could be featured as War Service was at Louisville. It was dramatic, and seized the imagination.

My second impression was that sky and air are vital to any conference. What inspiration can a breathless audience obtain? It is unfair to the speaker to invite him under impossible conditions.

My third impression was one of the enduring courtesy of an A. L. A. audience. Could we put a little "pep" into the response to a paper? Are we too polite?

JESSIE F. HUME.

Three things stand out in my recollections of the Louisville conference:

First, the delightful Southern hospitality, culminating in the splendid evening program provided by the authors and musicians of Louisville.

Second, the keen interest in the war and what libraries can do to help; and

Third, the terrible heat which kept us "panting, panting, panting," and made me decide between pants never again to be able to attend a Southern summer meeting.

J. T. JENNINGS.

The Louisville convention impressed me as the very best I have yet attended, which is all that the A. L. A. has held since 1905 with the exception of the two in California.

I trace my enthusiasm to the fact that every one present seemed to be there for a serious purpose and there was almost an entire absence of mere vacationists.

Special library sessions had an attendance good in quantity and quality. All seemed interested and one did not bother to ask who in particular each delegate was.

In short, the delegates came to Louisville to help one another solve their prob-

lems, and the spirit of the meeting heralded a near future when the difference between general and special libraries will be nominal, the idea of service being equally dominant in both cases.

G. W. LEE.

My impression of the Louisville conference is one of distinctly practical helpfulness. The shadow of war, of course, touched every session and the feeling of the responsibility of the American library world was ever present. The fact that the public library was a vital element in our national life in war as well as in peace was brought out with unmistakable emphasis.

H. M. LYDENBERG.

In my opinion the Louisville meeting of the A. L. A. was one of the very best in its history. The grouping of the meeting place and the two satisfactory hotels within one block did much to mitigate the terrors of the climate.

The conference was very thoroughly conducted, and it seemed to me that people met oftener than is generally possible in a city meeting.

The war naturally absorbed a good deal of attention, and the appointment of the committee having to deal with the camps will probably have very far-reaching effects. As is usually the case, time was lost by the fact that people did not meet at the hours designated. This would not be tolerated in other activities. The orchestra should begin and the curtain go up at the appointed hour, and the loyalty of the members should be expressed by their punctuality on all such occasions. In this way they would not only show courtesy to the first speakers, but also their appreciation of the fact that they are there as delegates from an institution which naturally expects to receive the full benefit of what may be gathered at such meetings.

THOMAS L. MONTGOMERY.

Altogether it was a conference long to be remembered for the unstinted hospitality of Louisville and the inspiration gained from the war service discussions and from talking with members of the profession. In a city meeting it is always hard to find the people one wants to see when they are scattered about in

different hotels and boarding places and I for one hope that the next A. L. A. will be at a summer resort where everyone can be at headquarters and at a time when there is not so much chance of a heated spell.

ROSLIE MUMFORD.

The address by Dr Shailer Mathews was remarkably clear and forceful, and I wished for another by him. More inspirational addresses would have greatly increased the helpfulness of the conference. Have we outgrown "book talk?"

The nice people with the blue ribbon badges deserve three cheers for their splendid preparatory work, and numerous courtesies during A. L. A. week. The arrangements at Louisville were unusually convenient, and as nearly ideal as are possible in a city. Do most of the A. L. A. members really prefer a city meeting? I would like to add one word of protest against city conferences. Let's go back to the country!

MARY B. PALMER.

The Louisville conference was both leisurely and friendly, due partly to our southern environment and partly to the fact that it was not too big. There was time to visit with all one's old friends and even to collect a few new ones, a pastime not possible—at least to old stagers—at recent A. L. A. meetings.

It was also stimulating. There was a sense of large issues, of great opportunities, of new values—a pentecostal quality that quickened the energies and refreshed the spirit. It was good to have been there.

JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE.

The one thing above all others that I recall with pleasure in regard to the recent meeting of the American Library Association was the opportunity it gave me to entertain the conference in my own home town and show the members a bit of Kentucky hospitality.

GEO. T. SETTLE.

When one felt the audiences at Louisville, all filled with one desire, war service, one got a touch of enthusiasm akin to that which the earlier and smaller meetings often aroused, which made the conference as a whole very satisfactory.

MARY L. TITCOMB.

Mabel Alice Thain

The passing of Mabel Alice Thain, for ten years librarian of the Public library, Oak Park, Illinois, will be marked with sorrow by all who knew her as a member of her chosen profession as well as by the hosts of personal friends whom she "grappled to her soul with hooks of steel."

A superbly noble example of womanhood, she poured out all her wealth of experience, of inspiration and of culture to all who came to her for service of any kind. "Service"—that was the keynote of her life as librarian as well as friend, sister and daughter, and it sounded full and clear to the very end.

She was associated with the Oak Park public library for nineteen years as apprentice, assistant, and librarian; in those years the library grew from one of 11,000 volumes to one of 32,000, and the population of the suburb likewise increased three-fold. Facing, as she did during the growth of the library, problems of widely varying character, Miss Thain ever threw the weight of her influence on the side of the best in all things—books, equipment, technique, and service. There was no compromise with makeshifts nor with anything less than the highest ideals. In her relations with her staff, she created such an atmosphere of trust, encouragement and mutual helpfulness among her co-workers, she shared with them so fully her appreciation and enjoyment of the fine things in literature and life, that to work under her leadership was a rare privilege. Her clear forward vision and keen desire to give the community the most efficient and inspiring service have placed the Oak Park public library in the front rank of those serving similar communities.

H. A. B.

The little volumes, "Evenings with great authors," will have special value for those who are called on to present briefly outlines or appraisal of the work of the standard authors in literature. Volume 2 of the series (A. C. McClurg & Co.) contains Scott, Dickens and Thackeray.

Scrap-book Specifications**Denver public library**

The Denver public library has drawn up some specifications for a soldiers' scrap-book for the use of individuals or wounded men in hospitals who are too ill to hold a heavy book and yet are able to look at pictures or do a little light reading. A number of libraries through the country are making, or want to make, scrap-books to be given out to their library patrons to be filled, and other libraries may have the benefit of these specifications if they wish them. The scrap-book is made up on the loose-leaf principle so that if some pages are spoiled by the makers these can be removed and clean ones substituted. This book costs a little over 5 cents per copy.

GEO. B. UTLEY.

Paper

Kind—Stranghold Kraft, 156 lb.

Size—19 by 12.

Price—Denver quotation per 1,000 sheets punched, \$7.50.

Pages

20; i. e., 5 double sheets each 9½ by 12, 4 pages to a section.

Cover

Kind—Brown buckeye, 20 by 25, 65 lb.

Size—19 by 12.

Decoration—Attractive colored picture of suitable size so as not to crowd the page. The American flag or the flags of the allies is suggested.

Price—Denver quotation per 1,000 covers punched, \$15.

Punching

Distance—One in center of back and one at each end 4½ inches from center hole.

Tying

Tie with red, white and blue string.

Pictures

Kind—Preferable colored. Attractive, cheerful, large enough to be seen easily.

Arrangement—*In all cases horizontal* so that it will not be necessary to turn the book in order to see the pictures. More than one may be placed on a page if symmetrically arranged and not crowded.

Cutting—Trim off all advertising print and large backgrounds.

Picture post cards

Avoid their use. In a few cases reproductions of works of art if well selected might be permissible. They increase weight, however.

* Pretty heavy weight for a sick man to handle. Fewer pages seem desirable.—Ed. P. L.

Printed matter

Envelope stories—One short story for each book to be allowed, this story to be complete, margins neatly trimmed and placed in a plain envelope, plain side pasted to the page.

Poems—One short poem per book, to be pasted directly on a page.

Jokes—Jokes clipped from humorous magazines and columns may be used.

In all cases avoid war and other horrors. Brevity and good print should be considered in printed matter, for if the patient were able to read at length, he could read a magazine.

Supervision

All arrangement and work to be supervised by public or private school teachers, art teachers, library workers, and others qualified to direct.

Weight

Before pictures are pasted, about 7 oz.

Avoid thickness of paper in selection of pictures, so as to reduce added weight to a minimum. A heavy book cannot be handled nor pages turned by sick and weak men.

Miscellaneous

Remember that these books are for *grown men* and not children, and this fact must be considered in the selection of pictures and printed matter.

***Camp Library Work by Chicago Public Library**

When it first occurred to the management of the Chicago public library to create a library for the soldiers in the State of Illinois, little doubt was entertained that the people of the city would respond generously in point of quantity. But naturally the question arose as to the kind of reading that would be received and the kind that should be supplied to the soldiers.

As to the kind of literature that the Chicago public library has been receiving in response to its appeal to the public, nothing is more gratifying than the very high character of the books received. The people of Chicago are evidently giving of their best, and their best indicates a very excellent standard of taste. Fiction forms, as it should, the bulk of the collection. Practically all of the good writers are represented, from Dickens,

*Extract from paper by Dr Max Henius, retiring president of Board of Directors, Chicago public library, before Chicago library club, October 11, 1917.

Scott and Thackeray, to Winston Churchill, H. G. Wells, Rex Beach, Jack London and Arnold Bennett. A beautiful set of Bret Harte's works and a sumptuously bound edition of Dumas have been received. Well illustrated works of travel and popular history, as well as essays and poetry, are coming in daily. Experience at the Mexican border shows that poetry is by no means the least popular class with the soldiers.

The first appeal by the Chicago public library for books for the soldiers was published in April of this year by means of placards and with the generous assistance of the newspapers. It was in the following form:

HAVE YOU A BOOK TO SPARE?

The Chicago Public Library Invites Gifts of Books for

SOLDIERS' TRAVELING AND KNAPSACK LIBRARIES

Books donated by the citizens of Chicago will be assembled at the Library and made up into Traveling and Knapsack Libraries for the Soldiers in trenches and in field and the Nurses in camps and hospitals.

Will you give one or more books for this purpose?

Leave with or send to the Branch Librarian or the Main Library, marked "Books for Soldiers."

The response was more than gratifying—it was amazing. Early in June the number contributed exceeded 7,000. Telephone requests to call for books in quantities too large to be delivered in person were received at the rate from a dozen to 20 a day. Nearly 100 moving picture theaters responded favorably to a letter asking that a slide prepared by the library and carrying the appeal be shown at every performance for a month.

Distribution is made through the Y. M. C. A., to whom the books are being turned over at its camp buildings in numbers proportionate to the size of the encampment. The association assumes custody and issues them to applicants on a simple loan system. The books are re-

garded as free gifts from the citizens to the men and boys in the service, and not as property of the library, which relinquishes all claim and responsibility when they are delivered to the Y. M. C. A. officials. The only mark of ownership is the label pasted on the cover.

SOLDIERS' LIBRARY

Given by Citizens of Chicago
Collected by the Chicago Public Library
Distributed by the Y. M. C. A.

*Handle Carefully. Return Promptly
Give the Next Man a Chance*

PROPERTY OF THE SOLDIERS' LIBRARY

The first delivery was made by library auto truck to Fort Sheridan and the Great Lakes Naval training station on Registration day, June 5. There were 1,500 books, packed in 30 unit boxes, holding 50 each, taken. At Fort Sheridan, where the Reserve Officers' training corps was stationed, 500 books were delivered. These had been carefully selected with regard to the average age and educational equipment of this body of men, mostly college graduates. The remaining 1,000 books of the initial shipment, of a lighter character, adapted to the lads in training at the Great Lakes station, were then conveyed to the latter place, where over 8,000 young men were encamped. In both places the arrival of the books was greeted with very evident appreciation. Officials of the Y. M. C. A. who had experience at the Mexican border were enthusiastic in their approval of the idea, and emphatically declared the practical importance and value of the undertaking.

During the months of June and July books were sent to nine additional national guard camps within the state of Illinois as follows: Municipal Pier, 200; Cairo, 100; Cicero, 200; East Alton, 100; East St. Louis, 100; Joliet, 150; Quincy, 100; Rock Island, 200; Springfield, 200. The number to be sent was determined by the Y. M. C. A. in each case and represents a proportion of one book to every five men in the respective camps. In July, also, there came a request from the

Aviation camp at Rantoul, Ill., to which we sent 200 books. Thus up to the end of July we sorted, labelled and shipped nearly 6,000 books out of a total of about 15,000, which had up to that time been contributed by citizens. Another 6,000 were ready, awaiting further calls.

There was a lull in the demand for books while the cantonment at Rockford was being built, which enabled us to send 5,000 books to the boys in France. On September 14, we received a telegram from the Chief Y. M. C. A. secretary at Camp Grant saying "We could use 12,000 books in our six army Y. M. C. A. buildings. Can you forward by fast freight?" We were able to respond to this appeal at once and the 12,000 books were on the way to Rockford within 48 hours. In the meantime the War Service committee of the American library association had requested our co-operation in common with that of ten other large libraries in the country, and we became the receiving station for books donated by citizens in Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois north of Peoria. A perfect deluge of books ensued, and during the month of September at least 30,000 volumes were received, unpacked, examined, sorted, labelled and repacked. We kept no accurate record of receipts, but have, of course, such a record of books sent out, and we know that during this period 23,000 volumes left our building addressed to various camps according to instructions received from the A. L. A. committee in Washington. The following are the camps supplied in each case with 2,000 volumes, in addition to 12,000 to Rockford, one-half of which were "Chicago" books: Ft. Oglethorpe, Dodge, Ga.; Camp McClellan, Anniston, Ala.; Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La.; Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas; Camp Bowie, Ft. Worth, Texas; Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark. This brings our activities up to date, and indications are that there is a pause in the number of books coming in from the various libraries in the three states mentioned. It is likely also that the A. L. A. War Fund libraries will now be organized in the near future and that

books, purchased will supersede or at least supplement the splendid and altogether remarkable libraries that have been donated by citizens throughout this country for their soldier boys in the various camps.

The latest development in the activities of the Chicago public library in providing reading matter for soldiers is the issuance of scrap books. The plan is to have people fill up these books with clippings from current papers and magazines, chiefly short stories, jokes, cartoons, etc., which will give the soldiers a whiff of home atmosphere and a cheery greeting from the people who think a great deal of them but do not often have an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings. When the books are filled they are returned to the Chicago public library and forwarded in the same manner as books. The blank scrap books have been furnished by the library itself, but their supply has now been generously undertaken by the Chicago *Daily News*. The books are obtainable from the library and its branches. About 10,000 have been issued up to the present time.

As you are all aware, a movement is now under way for the creation of a big fund for a war library to provide our army with books. This movement is of national scope, and in it the smaller undertakings, like that of the Chicago public library, will eventually be merged. It is undoubtedly best that all matters of this sort be unified and handled from a central point, and the Chicago public library will be glad to retire from the field or do its share in an humble capacity to help the greater work along. But, it will ever cherish with satisfaction the recollection of its activities which contributed not a little towards the comfort of our boys in khaki before the general movement had time to make its effects felt.

Camp Libraries Activity

Major-General E. F. Glenn, commanding headquarters, Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, says:—

This is not a charity, since our soldiers give up excellent libraries at home and should, if possible, have them made avail-

able for them during the hours which they have available for this purpose while serving in the ranks as soldiers. All forms of healthy, mental and physical entertainment of enlisted men are desirable but none more so than fine suitable reading matter.

At a meeting of the War service committee of the A. L. A., November 18, it was decided that the general direction and conduct of the camp libraries work as a whole should be under the Librarian of Congress and the headquarters be in the Library of Congress. This will insure a single responsible head, a continuous coöperation with all agencies with related purposes and activities. The administration expense will be heavy though there will be the simplest machinery possible. But the amount of material to be handled, the various and distant points to be reached, calls for system, responsible records and a corps of competent, energetic workers lest congestion arise and time and material be lost.

A personal letter from Mr. Putnam says that the librarians at present are mostly volunteers and even those paid are substantially so. A letter sent out to the librarians asks for volunteers for the organization of the work of each camp from men of large quality and experience who would establish relations and train in the other workers. The libraries are asked to supply such men without other charge than expenses. This would mean merely a loan of such a man for a period of one or two months. The loan would be a public service analogous to that which other institutions and public bodies are rendering in this crisis and would legally be the more warranted because the readers to be served would be the libraries' own constituents.

The following either are now in active service or are under assignment for service at the camp library indicated:

Camp Devans, Ayer, Mass.—John A. Lowe, Massachusetts Free Library commission.

Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.—Under personal supervision of Miss T. D. Barker, librarian, Carnegie library, Atlanta.

Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O.—Burton E. Stevenson, librarian, Public library, Chil-

licothe, O., and J. Howard Dice, Library organization department, Columbus, O.

Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.—Under direct supervision of Geo. T. Settle, librarian, Louisville public library.

Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich.—J. S. Cleavenger, librarian, Public library, Jackson, Mich.

Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.—Under supervision of C. B. Roden, acting librarian, Chicago public library.

Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Ia.—Under supervision of Iowa library commission and Forrest B. Spaulding, librarian, Des Moines public library.

Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kans.—Under supervision of Purd B. Wright, librarian, Kansas City public library. Mr H. O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, served for several weeks.

Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark.—Under supervision of Miss Dorothy D. Lyon, librarian, public library, Little Rock, Ark.

Camp Lewis, American Lake, Wash.—J. T. Jennings, librarian, Public library, Seattle, and J. B. Kaiser, librarian, Public library, Tacoma, Wash.

Camp Green, Charlotte, N. C.—Under supervision of Mary B. Palmer, librarian, Public library, Charlotte, N. C.

Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C.—R. P. Emmerson, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Camp McClellan, Anniston, Ala.—Under supervision of Carl H. Milan, librarian, Public library, Birmingham, Ala.

Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Ala.—J. L. Wheeler, librarian, Public library, Youngstown, O., and F. D. Slocum, New York City.

Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.—Whitman Davis, librarian, Mississippi Agricultural college.

Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, Louisiana—Geo. F. Strong, librarian, Western Reserve university, Cleveland, O.

Camp Logan, Houston, Tex.—Under supervision of Miss Julia Ideson, librarian, Public library, Houston, Tex.

Camp MacArthur, Waco, Tex.—Under supervision of Willard P. Lewis, librarian, Baylor university, Waco, Tex.

Camp Bowie, Ft. Worth, Tex.—Under supervision of Mrs Chas. Scheuberr, librarian Public library, Fort Worth.

Camp Doniphan, Fort Sill, Okla.—Luther L. Dickerson, librarian, Grinnell college, Grinnell, Ia.

Camp Cody, Deming, N. Mex.—C. Henry Smith, librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

Camp Kearney, Linda Vista, (San Diego) Cal.—I. W. Lawson, San Diego. (Under

general supervision of Althea Warren, librarian, Public library, San Diego.)

Among those who will probably be assigned to camp library service shortly are the following:

Howard L. Hughes, librarian, Public library, Trenton, N. J.

A. L. Bailey, librarian, Wilmington Institute free library.

Henry S. Greene, State library, Charleston, W. Va.

L. W. Josselyn, librarian, Public library, Jacksonville, Fla.

Robert P. Bliss, assistant secretary, Pennsylvania Free Library commission.

F. L. D. Goodrich, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

An offer has been received from an anonymous source for a building at the Great Lakes training station. A grant has been made by the Carnegie corporation for a distinct library building at each of the 16 cantonments, also for buildings at such of the National Guard camps as have a prospect of permanence justifying them.

A general type has been adopted and is identical for each cantonment, of a design to secure the maximum of accommodation at the minimum of expense. Each consists of a single large hall 40 by 120 feet, with open shelves for 10,000 volumes and seats for 250 readers. The cost of each, including furniture and equipment is limited to \$10,000. The plans were drawn by Mr E. L. Tilton, who contributed his services, and have been approved by the Carnegie corporation and the contractors do their work at cost plus 6 per cent. These buildings will be centers for receiving and distributing books through the various other agencies in the cantonments. Every agency will be utilized necessarily on account of the great areas covered. A single visit to each of the stations in a cantonment involves a trip of from 10 to 17 miles. Without waiting for the buildings the actual service is under way. Representatives are already on the spot organizing the work and their reports show a great eagerness for reading matter on the part of the men and appreciation on the part of the officers.

The reports show the men crave something more than merely recreative reading. One librarian reports that 90 per cent of the circulation is non-fiction. At some of the places—for instance the Naval Training station at the Great Lakes—the men are pursuing systematic studies and want text books in mathematics, engineering, history and languages.

Thousands of gift volumes, mostly fiction, have been received, but many thousand more are needed and the campaign for them will continue. So must the campaign for funds also if the war lasts long, for the sum raised, though considerable, is meager compared with the need to be met. Besides the numerous points in this country, there are transports, naval bases abroad and the camps at the front. Our army of 1,000,000 men, composed as it has been with definite hours available for reading and little else to occupy them during those hours, is equivalent to an ordinary community of four or five times that number.

Lists have been compiled during several months past by a committee of librarians in New York. From these selections will be made for the initial purchased based on reports from camps as to what is needed and on what may be expected by gifts. Purchases will be made direct of publishers who have agreed to give a special discount of 50 per cent. Books will be shipped direct to the camps. This branch of the work is being supervised by the camp libraries manager, Mr Dudgeon. The organization at headquarters includes besides the Librarian of Congress and the camp libraries manager, Mr George B. Utley, who as secretary of the A. L. A. has been detailed as executive secretary, and a disbursing officer, Mr William L. Brown. The American Security and Trust Co. of Washington remains treasurer of the fund. Subscriptions to the fund may be sent directly to the treasurer and after November 1, should be sent there. Books offered as gifts may be handed to the librarian of the nearest public library, who will forward them without cost to the giver.

The Story of the Camp Libraries

Today money is provided, often times at a sacrifice, to provide the best of library facilities for the cantonments, training camps, naval stations, hospitals and wherever else they are needed by the defenders of our country. The million dollars was oversubscribed—a grand result!

The reports of the work all over the country showed marked ability, in some places quite out of the ordinary, in arousing interest and securing help. Stockton, Cal., had one of the best series of posters, circulars, and letters.

The campaign in the Chicago district was very live. Illinois was slow in starting but did very well, all things considered. Director Windsor reported, October 18, about \$12,000. Chicago has given \$87,500 to date (October 24) with outstanding reports. The work was taken up with eagerness by substantial citizens and everyone contributed his services—artists, newspapers, listers, printers, etc., so that the local expense of the campaign will be within \$2,000. Clubs, schools, churches, and societies responded heartily.

Wisconsin will no doubt show her usual good results.

The campaign in Michigan carried on through posters, pamphlets and a house to house canvass made by members of the library staff, followed by regular collection of books from addresses secured, called for most generous response. In Detroit, about 20,000 books and more magazines have been given.

The Board of Commerce and the Rotary club organized teams for the financial campaign in Detroit. The library staff helped in this with a "follow-up" system of personal visits.

Receipts of about \$15,000 in Detroit were about half the stated sum which was called for at first. Both active campaigns were dropped at the end of the week for the Liberty Loan campaign.

In Grand Rapids, schools, clubs and business interests under direction of the Public library raised nearly \$4,000. Michigan contributed in all about \$35,000.

New York Library Week

The New York library association held its twenty-seventh annual meeting at Lakewood Farm Inn, Roscoe, N. Y., September 17-22, 1917.

Mr Bassett, proprietor of the Inn made the address of welcome, to which Mr W. F. Yust, librarian of the Rochester public library replied for the association. This was followed by the address of Mr Edward F. Stevens, the president, "An honorable and lasting peace".

Tuesday morning was given over to a business session. George Haven Putnam gave the address of the morning "The production and distribution of books; the publishers as producers and librarians and booksellers as distributors, working together for the same general purpose". He gave a history of books from the earliest times when the cave man expressed his hunting triumph in rude pictures of clay, to the present time. He believes that the relations between booksellers, book publishers and librarians in America today are far less fortunate than those existing in Europe. The continental theory is that the university maintain a supervision of the publishing and selling of books. "In America, today, no bookseller," Major Putnam says, "can afford to be intelligent". A blow at bookselling is a strike at the intellectual life of the nation and a unity between librarians, publishers, and booksellers is essential to the general good of the community.

Dr Frank P. Hill presented the plan of the A. L. A. for raising and using \$1,000,000 in bringing books to soldiers and sailors wherever found. The association pledged \$300 to be so used.

Tuesday evening, Mr Francis Hackett, editor of *The New Republic* spoke on "The point of view of the editor and critic". He said that the mission of the critic was "to bring reality to readers through temperament. Temperament is the base on which the critic turns to view life." Librarians, he believes, know what the public wants. The great vitality of America has not yet turned to literature. The English language is a handicap to American literature as a finished product

comes from an older country before America can become sufficiently matured and this is consumed instead of American work. The urgency with which books are presented to youthful students causes repugnance. The study of literature in the schools gives the child no feeling of unity between life and books. The printed tale of Scott finds no counterpart in boy life in Kansas and the boy turns to *The Saturday Evening Post* for reading which can be identified with his own existence. For a long time classic literature has been considered one with English culture. This condition is being somewhat remedied by Howells and Churchill who make up their stories of business and political conditions. Unfortunately criticism has not followed. There has existed a certain "fear of culture". This tendency in American life toward active business has resulted in large prosperity and "with prosperity comes an appetite for culture and information". Magazines of today, Mr Hackett said, portray a certain snobbishness, a lack of faith in the public which is considered "fit to consume the classic but not bright modern thinking". This is the "crippling tradition of the aristocracy of letters". When literature and criticism have "gone down deep" in America then there will be an enormous chance for a civilization which shall be real and deep—a spiritual civilization.

Miss Mary J. Quinn, supervisor in design, school of household science and arts, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, spoke on "The decoration of the library". Her talk was illustrated by lantern slides.

Following Miss Quinn, Walter F. McMahon of the National association of Audubon societies gave a talk on birds illustrated by lantern slides from photographs, many of which he had taken himself.

After the report on Institutes, given by Mr Walter for Mr Wynkoop, on Wednesday morning, the association appropriated \$200 for the continuance of this work.

The morning and afternoon sessions, thanks to the glorious weather, were held on the broad verandas of the hotel.

Harrison W. Craver gave an address on the library of the Engineering Societies of which he is the newly appointed director.

Miss Mary Frank, librarian of the Rivington branch of the New York public library, read "Exploring a neighborhood" in which she told the fascinating story of the "exploration" by which she and her staff became acquainted with their surrounding district, and the added inspiration and knowledge which they gained for the advantage of their work.

Frederic G. Melcher of the W. K. Steward Co., Indianapolis, made a spirited address on "The retailers' place in book distribution". He gave statistics showing the number of books published yearly and how they found outlet. The bookstore should become a community institution, the library and the store helping each other for they "are no more rivals than public parks and private gardens".

Wednesday afternoon was given over to a series of informal book talks under the direction of Miss Rathbone. Miss Hutchinson, Miss Sutcliffe, Mr Walter, Miss Hitchler, Miss Foote, Mrs Barry, Miss Zachert, Miss Darwin and others took part.

On Wednesday evening, Mr George D. Pratt, State Conservation commissioner of New York and trustee of the Pratt Institute free library, gave an address "The work of conservation in the state of New York", illustrated by stereopticon and motion pictures.

Round table sessions under Miss Bacon on book selection, Miss Hassler on children's work, Mr Hendry on technical books and Miss Woodruff on college and reference work occupied Thursday morning.

In the evening, Miss Margaret Jackson, editor of the *Book Review Digest* read a charming paper "A feast of reasons why librarians should make use of book reviews". She grouped the book reviewing magazines in terms of a dinner, and the menu was greatly appreciated.

Dr Arthur Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library who spoke on

"Public libraries and national service" pointed out that the greatest duty of librarians lay in molding "the mind of the nation in the paths of sanity" at this time when every ideal and standard is in danger of overthrow.

Alfred W. Abrams followed Dr Bostwick with a talk "An extension of service to the community" on the use of pictures. It was illustrated by lantern slides.

Friday morning, Mr Walter read for Mr Wyer, his paper "Changed titles and other sins of publishers" which was followed by a discussion in which Mr Huebsch, publisher, of New York, answered questions. Mr Huebsch then gave his address "The bookseller; cultural factor and community asset". His paper contained many suggestions for the improvement of book stores, and booksellers, among which was the establishment of a central building for a trade school in which future booksellers might receive instruction, hear lectures and try out their skill before becoming actual booksellers. His picture of the place the book store should occupy in the cultural life of a town was vivid and sincere. He urged that library training schools should develop courses in bookselling as a new and profitable field for women and men of education and intelligence.

Miss Underhill read, in the absence of Mr McGill, his paper on "The rural library in practice" which gave an account of the work done in the Pleasant Valley library.

After the reading of the report of the committee on the Merit System, the association moved that it express again its approval that the appointments to library service should be based entirely on merit, and that it regards the plan of the committee a step in the right direction. The matter was left to the succeeding committee with power to act should opportunity for legislative consideration present itself.

Friday afternoon was devoted to a session on Libraries and the schools, conducted by Miss Zachert of Rochester. Miss Cowing of Pratt read a paper "Library work with grammar school children". Miss Amelia Robie gave a talk

on "Instruction in the high school library" which stated the methods employed in the eight high school libraries of Cleveland. Mr Walter told of an interesting experiment which the State Education department is conducting—that of a ten day institute for high school teachers at which instruction is given in all phases of library science. Dr Bostwick spoke of the ideal arrangement existing in St. Louis of a joint committee of school men and librarians which is just being tried out. Miss Richardson of the Geneseo normal school spoke of the growing appreciation accorded by school men to teachers and high school librarians with library training. Miss Hall read the report on Relations of libraries and schools.

On Friday evening, Mr Hopper, of the New York public library staff, gave a history of the new organization "The New York Public Library Staff Association," pointing out the reasons for its existence, and giving an outline of its possibilities.

Paul M. Paine, librarian of the Syracuse public library read a paper "The soldiers' branch at the Syracuse mobilization camp", in which he told of the way Syracuse had met these unexpected needs. The Y. M. C. A. has been used as a distributing agency and the Public library as a base of book supply.

At the final session Saturday morning the following officers were elected: President, William F. Yust, Rochester; vice-president, Mary C. Sherrard, Utica; secretary, N. Louise Ruckteshler, Norwich; treasurer, Pauline D. Lansing, Buffalo.

The register showed an attendance of 147. The place of meeting was of unusual attraction, and the informal social events were thoroughly enjoyed.

E. Louise Lauder,
Secretary.

Unimproved opportunity will rebuke us when we attempt to claim the benefit of an experience we have not made our own, when we try to reap a harvest we have not sown or wish to enter unlawfully into the labor of others.—*Selected*.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The first meeting of the Chicago library club for the season of 1917-18 was held at the Ryerson library of the Chicago Art Institute on Thursday evening, Oct. 11.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner in the lunch room of the Art institute at which 100 members and guests were served.

After the dinner the program for the evening was given in the library, with about 150 in attendance.

The president, J. F. Lyons, librarian of McCormick theological seminary, was in the chair.

Resolutions on the death of Mr Henry E. Legler were adopted by the club.

The report of the membership committee showed 32 new members for the first meeting of the year.

A resolution was offered by Miss M. E. Ahern, setting forth the necessity for great care in the appointment of a successor to Mr Legler and asking that fitness and ability for the work and not political influence, be the basis for the selection. It was unanimously adopted.

The regular program was then carried out. Miss Ahern, as District secretary for the A. L. A. work, spoke on camp libraries, giving a brief outline of the origin of the work and a short account of the campaign for \$1,000,000.

Dr Max Henius, president of the retiring board of the Chicago public library, spoke of the work of that library in collecting and distributing books for the soldiers. Dr Henius spoke of the great importance of reading for the soldiers, as a means of relaxation, of the generous response of the people of Chicago in giving good books and of the speed and efficiency with which the books were handled and shipped to the various camps by the Chicago public library, and of the co-operation of the Y. M. C. A. at the camps. He also spoke of the 5,000 volumes that have been sent to France and of the urgent requests for books from all the training camps and expressed great satisfaction that the work has been taken up and systematized by

the A. L. A. and that the Chicago public library is to co-operate as one of the centers where books are received and shipped.

Mr Eggers of the Art institute welcomed the club most gracefully and spoke of the very interesting work done by the Art institute for the soldiers and sailors. Mr Eggers spoke of the work of the Woman's alliance of the Art institute in arranging entertainments on Saturday nights for the soldiers and sailors, of the fact that any man in uniform is admitted free to the Art institute at any time, of the special exhibits of war ship models, French cartoons and Raemaekers' cartoons and most important of all, of the fact that the Art institute has sent over 50 men to the service.

The program was followed by a very pleasant social hour, with light refreshments.

JANET W. GREEN,
Secretary.

Iowa—The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held at Iowa City, October 9-11, 1917. The registered attendance was 169—143 librarians, 13 trustees and 3 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Miss Armstrong, of Council Bluffs, on Tuesday afternoon. After the business reports Miss Plaister reviewed the various methods of publicity which have been so successfully tried at Sioux City. She pointed out that publicity should only follow preparedness at home, maintaining that in the final analysis a satisfied patron is the best advertiser. A discussion followed which brought out many tried and successful methods of publicity. Miss Le Mar of Des Moines then told of a very successful library week which had been held at Charlton, a day being given to the various professions and interests of the town with the particular features of each day's attractions and the resulting success in having the library tax increased.

A most delightful reception was tendered the association at the home of Dr Jessup on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday morning, Dr Jessup addressed the members of the association

telling them that it is the duty of the library as well as of the school to help particular groups of seekers find their places in the great movement now in progress, the reorganization of the world; to help all to read intelligently along lines of serious interests and to do our bit towards the elimination of prejudice and ignorance as to the present world war.

Dr Yarros of Hull House talked to those present on a "Century of struggle in Russia". The present revolution is not a beginning but the last phase of a century of evolution—a century of struggle for the Russian people to free themselves from the yoke of autocracy, at first participated in by but a group of nobles, but now spread to the workingmen and to the peasants. At present the four million workingmen, who hate all forms of government and everything which has to do with the old regime are in control, but when the so-called intelligentsia and the eighty million peasants come to understand each other, Russia will come into its own. Of the present war, Russia is tired, so far she has suffered for naught, and today she is chiefly interested in organizing her own government, but she will do her part, will hold the line and passively if not actively fulfill her contract with the allies.

Mr Spaulding of Des Moines in his paper on War service for libraries summed up what has been done, what can be and what should be done in the present crisis by the libraries of the country. Miss Davis of the Iowa library commission reviewed most interestingly a group of war books. Miss Wardell of Iowa City talked of Home Economic books, closing with a plea that librarians plan some arrangement of home economic books that will shelve them together rather than the present method of widely separating them in their various classes.

At the afternoon session, Wednesday, Miss Massee of the *A. L. A. Booklist* in a brief for fiction, which contains so much that is timely, so much that is true, so much that is prophetic, asked that we as librarians be more charitable, more

understanding towards our fiction readers and less interested in lowering our fiction percentage in circulation. Round tables were held for the following groups at which the problems peculiar to each were discussed: Trustees, large libraries, small libraries, college libraries, children's libraries, and assistants.

Wednesday evening, the members of the association were guests of the University at the university lecture, "The processes of sculpture", by Mr Lorado Taft.

Thursday morning Dr Shambaugh of the Iowa Historical society spoke of the new work of the society in publishing material about Iowa at war. Miss Simpson of the University of Illinois library school gave a most interesting paper on the "Certification of librarians and library civil service."

The librarians adjourned to attend the lecture on Prohibition by William J. Bryan, after which the business session of the annual meeting was held, resulting in the election of the following officers for 1918:

President, Mrs I. C. Johnson, Oskaloosa; first vice-president, Mrs Bertha Baird, Mason City; second vice-president, Miss Jane Roberts, Iowa City; secretary, Miss Mary Marks, Des Moines; registrar, Miss Almira Wilcox, Dubuque. The report of the resolutions committee was read and adopted. Invitations for the 1918 meeting were read from Dubuque and Waterloo and presented by the president for Council Bluffs. Fifty dollars was ordered paid from the association funds to the Library War fund for soldiers' libraries. Greetings were sent to the Illinois and Wisconsin library associations then or soon to be in session, and to Mr Dickerson at Fort Snelling. The incoming president, after a most appealing word of acceptance, adjourned the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Iowa library association.

Kentucky—There was only one session of the Library association, a business meeting combined with a luncheon, at Louisville, June 26. It passed for the ninth annual meeting with 53 members present.

The secretary was authorized to apply for affiliation with the A. L. A. for the association.

The incoming officers were given power to district the state with a view to holding small meetings in the future in various sections.

The following officers were elected: President, George T. Settle; vice-president, Jessica Hopkins; second vice-president, Margaret I. King; secretary-treasurer, May Wood Wigginton; member-at-large, Florence Ragland.

MARY WOOD WIGGINTON,
Secretary.

Massachusetts—The annual meeting of the Bay Path library club was held at the Public library, Millbury, on June 14.

An address of welcome by James W. Robertson was followed by a brief business meeting in which the treasurer reported \$99 in the treasury. The following officers for 1917-18 were elected:

President, Mrs Robert K. Shaw, Worcester; honorary president, M. Anna Tarbell, Brimfield; vice presidents, George L. Wright, Boylston, Mrs Harriet G. Brown, Brookfield; secretary, Mabel E. Knowlton, Shrewsbury; treasurer, Mrs Grace M. Whittemore, Hudson.

The discussion of "Questionable books and their substitutes," led by Miss Keyes of Lancaster, was most interesting, and included many of our popular fiction writers. Robert K. Shaw and Katherine Cook of Worcester assisted in the discussion, while Dr Louis Wilson of Clark university spoke informally on the duty of a librarian to the public in regard to the purchase of fiction—questionable or otherwise.

James A. Moyer, director of the department of University extension, Boston, spoke on University extension and public libraries, explaining the many ways in which the libraries can coöperate in this educational field, new to Massachusetts.

Mrs Annie Russell Marble of Worcester gave a delightful talk on "The modern heroine in literature and some of her older sisters."

FLORENCE E. WHEELER,
Secretary.

The summer meeting of the Western Massachusetts library club was held June 22, at the Goodwin memorial library, Hadley, Mass. The general subject for discussion, during the morning session, was Notes of progress in our library during the year. Responses were made from librarians and others interested from over the state. The chief speaker of the morning was Miss Marion Dodd of the Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, who talked on the Relation of the libraries to the book trade.

In the afternoon, Clarence Hawkes, the blind poet of Hadley, recited selections from his work. Prof Henry M. Bowden of the American International college, Springfield, gave an address on Present-day Russia. He spoke from personal observation and knowledge and took up the agricultural, manufacturing and political conditions of that country.

President, Hiller C. Wellman, Springfield; vice-president, James A. Lowell of Amherst and Hazel Benjamin of Easthampton; secretary, Georgina E. Carr, Springfield; treasurer, Fannie Childs, Springfield; recorder, James A. Lowell.

The New England war library conference was held in the Boston public library in the interest of the campaign for funds for war libraries. It took the place of the regular meeting of the Massachusetts library club. There was an attendance of nearly 500. The sessions were marked by enthusiasm and earnestness. Various phases of the subject were emphasized by Miss Katharine P. Loring, President of the club; Wm. F. Kenney, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Boston public library; Dr Frank P. Hill, chairman of the War finance library committee; Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., and others. At luncheon, the club had as its guests and as speakers Governor S. W. McCall, the Mayor of Boston, Brigadier-General John A. Johnston, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Azan of the French military mission and Mr Hiller C. Wellman, who spoke as the representative of the A. L. A. In the afternoon, Mr F. C. Hicks spoke on the choice of books for soldiers. Mr Chas.

F. D. Belden told of the problem of book and periodical donations. He indicated certain types of books, such as dictionaries, language and technical books and the like, which would prove most useful. Mr Belden stated that 2,700 volumes were already available at Camp Devens.

FRANK H. WHITMORE.

Massachusetts—The Fall meeting of the Western Massachusetts library club held in Springfield, September 18, devoted both sessions to the campaign for war libraries. Mr Belden, librarian of the Boston public library and Division director for New England, spoke of the need of camp libraries and the way to meet it. Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., of Boston, member of the War Library Council, in his address, "Mustering the libraries," mentioned the fact that the community must be stirred by the trustees and librarians. Mr John A. Lowe of the Public Library commission described the work of the commission in Camp Devens at Ayer where a room in each of the five Y. M. C. A. buildings is used for library purposes until the library building is finished. He urged the collection of books and magazines for camps and the making of scrap books for the wounded soldiers in which work librarians might interest their borrowers. He also spoke of the importance of collecting photographs of local soldiers and all local war material that would be of historical interest.

GEORGINA E. CARR.

New York—The New York library club held its first meeting of the season on Thursday, Oct. 11, in the assembly hall of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company building, New York city.

Dr Frank P. Hill spoke on the progress of the War Library campaign. He said that as this was the first experience of the kind that librarians had had, that he hadn't questioned their willingness to undertake the work, but that he had doubted their ability to raise the required sum.

He stated that New York city had not reached its allotment and probably would not, that none of the large cities had reached its quota, but that the small

towns and cities had over subscribed their share, which made Dr Hill confident that the \$1,000,000 would be secured.

He also spoke of the returns from the monthly pledges asked for as a result of the A. L. A. meeting at Louisville. Over \$500 a month was being received from this source, the majority of subscribers to which were the librarians receiving \$100 per month.

Mr Lydenberg, president of the club, then introduced Mr Edward M. Van Cleve, principal of the New York Institution for the education of the blind, who spoke on the Library as a factor in the rehabilitation of the blind citizen.

Mr Van Cleve praised New York for having the most advanced ideas on the co-operation between the library and the blind, as well as the best library for the blind.

In speaking of the rehabilitation of the blind citizen he told of the wonderful influence exerted by the home teacher in helping the blind person to find himself and gave instances of men thoroughly discouraged being helped and advised, so that they were again able to earn their own living. And it was along this line that libraries and librarians could be most useful. He said that librarians, like ministers and teachers stood for the moral uplift of the community and that part of this task was the care of the blind. He urged librarians to know who their blind were, become acquainted with them, hold exhibits of their work in the library, find work for them and institute a ticket bureau where tickets for concerts, operas, entertainments, etc., not going to be used, could be sent and distributed to the blind members of the community.

He spoke of the conservation of vision classes in the public schools, for those whose eyesight was impaired and suggested that libraries follow the example of the St. Louis public library and make collections of books in large type for their use.

Questions and answers followed the address which brought out the following: that if a library has but a limited amount

of money to spend for books for the blind it is better to select one type of braille and buy entirely in that, ascertaining first from the readers which type is most generally liked, that if one can read one kind it is not difficult to learn to read another; that a ticket bureau is maintained at the Lighthouse for the Blind, 111 East Fifty-ninth street, where tickets may be sent; that all types of braille have good literature, but that the English braille has the largest amount of good literature; and that an advisory committee was to meet the following day in Washington to consider means of teaching and caring for the men blinded in war.

At the close of his address Mr Van Cleve made an especial plea for libraries to obtain by purchase if necessary, the literature published by the National Commission for the Prevention of Blindness, the address of which is Russel Sage Foundation Building, New York City. He urged libraries to bring to the attention of the public the information collected by this Commission, by posting its literature on the library bulletin board, and in every possible way educating the public to a knowledge of the necessity of caring for the eyes of the new born.

He stated that in consequence of the last 10 years of agitation on the prevention of blindness there has been a decrease of from 30 per cent to 18 per cent of the children entering the public schools being afflicted with ophthalmia neonatorum.

The meeting closed with the announcement that the next meeting of the club would be held on Nov. 8 at 8 p. m. in the Stuart room of the New York public library, when Mr George Watson Cole would speak on the Huntington library.

After the meeting adjourned the members remained to inspect the very interesting exhibit of work and tools of the blind, the industrial part of which was furnished by the New York commission for the blind, and the tools, maps and books by the New York public library.

ELEANOR ROPER,
Secretary.

Pennsylvania—The annual meeting of the Keystone State library association was held at Eagles Mere September 20-22, 1917. The register showed 50 libraries represented and an attendance of 60.

The first session was called to order by the President, Mrs Jean A. Hard, librarian of the Erie public library, in the auditorium at 8:45 Thursday evening.

After the usual routine business, the president presented, in her inimitable fashion the subject "The library as a censor." In a few well chosen words she showed how the need of censorship in a library grows as the library grows; the viewpoint of the library has changed entirely in the last few years, no hard and fast rules, for now we know that the library must be molded to fit the community. She compared the library to a mosaic which we must finish and polish.

Mrs Isaac Rhoades of Lansdowne was then introduced and, in a most delightful manner presented her subject, "The reflex element in the drama." Mrs Rhoades traced the drama from the early period to the present time; she said that only in the past 15 years had drama been read and appreciated, and the reason is that it reflects something of the colored and multiple life of today, being founded and influenced by social conditions. She indorsed the movies as forming a crude knowledge and through that appreciation grows—thus considering the movies the finest opportunity for informative education. The community drama is another step in education.

The war campaign had kept many librarians from the meeting, thus seriously affecting the program; so it was decided Friday morning to condense the program and get it all into one day.

Thomas L. Montgomery, State librarian and president of the A. L. A., made a strong appeal for the "Library war measures," especially the movement for libraries for our men in the cantonments. He said "Not for my boys, maybe your boys, but they are all *our* boys."

Miss Julia A. Hopkins of the Brooklyn public library spoke on the "Value of

apprentice courses." Miss Hopkins believes most heartily in the apprentice class; she feels the strength of the library rests in the middle class and that those in the high positions are not the ones by which the library is judged.

This paper opened a field for discussion which was participated in by librarians from both large and small libraries led by Miss Jessie Welles, now with the Wisconsin library commission.

The next speaker was J. E. Kavanaugh who represented Dr J. K. Frankel of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. of New York city, and gave some pointers on the subject "Saving for the future." He emphasized, especially, the Group life insurance and explained its advantages.

Charles Zueblin of Boston was the speaker on Friday evening and gave his famous lecture entitled "United States—Pace maker or peace maker."

HELEN E. ROCKWELL,
Secretary pro-tem.

Utah—The annual meeting of the Utah library association was held in the Salt Lake public library, October 5.

In the morning session, President Howard R. Driggs delivered the opening address, giving a resumé of library progress in the state during the past year. He stated that library work had found its way into the hearts of the people of the state and emphasized the necessity of closely allying the library with the educational forces of the community.

Grace W. Harris, librarian of the Ogden public library, spoke on the Library and war service, urging that libraries do their utmost to arouse patriotism and to show to each individual his opportunity for service, also that libraries cooperate with the A. L. A. in the effort to place books in the hands of our soldiers.

Josephine Devereaux, of Salt Lake public library, discussed the Sources of Utah history and explained the collection and classification of clippings on local history.

Esther Nelson, librarian of the University of Utah, spoke of the problems

of the library in connection with school debates, and explained how material may be procured.

During the noon intermission the members of the association were the guests of the Salt Lake public library at a luncheon in the Hotel Utah.

During the afternoon session, Miss Nelson led a round table discussion on cataloging, including problems of the cataloger, and methods of getting the catalog used by the general public.

Miss Sprague, librariah of the Salt Lake public library, led the round table talk on the subject of library records, giving a practical demonstration of the use of book, circulation, and membership records.

The following officers were elected: President, Esther Nelson, librarian, University of Utah; first vice-president, Mattie Strong, librarian Price public library; second vice-president, Vivian Wallace, librarian Murray public library; secretary and treasurer, Grace W. Harris, librarian, Ogden public library.

Members of Executive committee: Miss Joanna Sprague, librarian, Salt Lake public library, and Miss Lulu Burnham, librarian, Richmond public library.

GRACE W. HARRIS,
Secretary.

Interesting Things in Print

A new edition of Kroeger's Guide to reference books has been issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board. Changes and additions necessary to bring the material up to date have been made.

The Public library of St. Louis, Mo., has issued a little leaflet entitled, A guide to the central building. It contains some particulars concerning the arrangement of the central building and the work that is carried on in it, that may be of special interest to visiting librarians.

The official bulletin of the St. Paul Association of Commerce for September contains a very clear statement by Dr Dawson Johnson, showing the Public library as an investment, and answering

the very pertinent question, "What return are you receiving from it?" by his treatment of the subject.

The New York Public library has issued a little reading list on Patriotism. The list is classified and is a compact little pamphlet (16 mo.) of 67 pages. It includes titles of national songs, epics, poetry, orations and addresses, plus discussion of freedom in history and various phases of the subject of the present great war. A list of authors of the books and periodicals referred to in the list is given at the end.

An illustrated volume of 336 pages containing Unwritten history of Braddock's Field, Penn., was prepared for the local celebration last summer under the direction of George H. Lamb, librarian of the Carnegie library at Braddock. The book has many illustrations and a very complete index. In addition to the interest attached because of the historic associations of the place, the volume contains a history of the development of the steel industry of America.

A very timely book is that issued by Doubleday, Page & Co. Children's book of patriotic stories—The Spirit of 1776. It is edited by Mr and Mrs A. D. Dickinson and contains well-written stories about Valley Forge, Boston Tea Party, George Washington, Paul Revere, Ethan Allen and others. Some of the stories have appeared in children's magazines, others have been edited from the works of Washington Irving, Longfellow, Brooks, S. Weir Mitchell, J. F. Cooper, Weems, Tomlinson and other standard authors.

The publishers of *Atlantis*, New York City, have issued a pocket edition of an English-Modern Greek and Modern-Greek-English dictionary. This is something which public libraries located in communities where the modern Greeks have settled ought to find very useful. Calling attention to the publication of this little volume would be a real service to the immigrant who wishes to learn English. It has two indexes, a number of maps of both Europe and the United

States, is bound in leather, retails at \$1, and being pocket size adds to its value.

The last report of the St. Louis Public library contains an illustrated article of nearly 60 pages by Margery Quigley, librarian of the Divoll Branch. It is an account of the use of assembly and club rooms in the St. Louis Public library under the title "Where Neighbors meet." A remarkable point is that the St. Louis public library does not find it necessary to organize the activities that make use of these rooms. The only restrictions that are placed on the use of the rooms are that they shall not be commercialized and that order shall be maintained. Miss Quigley's article is published by the library as a separate pamphlet.

The letters of Gustav Pollak of the New York *Evening Post* on "House of Hohenzollern and the monarchy" have been issued in book form. They deal with the question as to whether a successful Middle Europe can be established under the dominance of Prussian rule. The book points out the present characteristics and ambitions, the feuds and contentions that exist already between the states on account of the enforced leadership of Prussia and predicts that such a union, hindered as it would be by existing dissensions and antipathy would lead to another disaster at no very distant day.

The Public library of Newark, N. J., has issued its usual helpful collection of printed material on current topics. A recent collection has to do with war and its connections. One of the important things in this is the story of the Star Spangled Banner, which is made the thread on which a good many things about war music and other topics are hung.

Several pieces contain an appeal to citizens for books for the soldiers. A list of books for soldiers having to do with manuals, regulations, causes of the war, aeroplanes, submarines, navigation, automobiles, hygiene and the French language, as well as histories of Russia, France and Italy is included.

Bulletin No. 2, 1907, Bureau of Edu-

cation, gives a report of the national joint committee on English representing the Commission on the organization of secondary education of N. E. A. and National council of teachers of English, compiled by J. F. Hosic, Chicago. The entire report is valuable, containing suggestions, opinions, conclusions on literature, composition, English, etc. The report on general reading has lists of recommended reading along the lines of technical industries and the committee on literature has suggested a number of lists of books for study and general reading for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades. The report on the library and its equipment is full and definite though perhaps too much confined to technique. No teacher in a school large enough to have a library will have time to form more than a passing acquaintance with library economy. Supt. Churchill of Oregon is right when he says that any high school of 10 or more teachers should also employ a trained librarian.

A Laudable Enterprise

There has been in the minds of many for a very long time, the thought that in some way a very one-sided estimation was being formed of the opportunities for advanced study in Europe by graduates of American colleges. The question of where to go seemed to have but one answer in the judgment of formal school men and that was Germany. The revolt of fairmindedness against this began years ago and had reached a point of protest before the beginning of the war. This latter produced the effect of making more articulate this protest and it has taken form in the recent volume, "Science and Learning in France," prepared and issued by the Society for American Fellowship in French universities.

It is a survey of opportunities offered by French universities to those seeking work for the higher degrees. Each field of learning is reviewed by American scholars eminent in the field they survey and of such professional standing and personal reputation as preclude any doubt of their ability and sincerity in judgment. But even the layman whose

knowledge of science and learning is gained largely from an intelligent interest in the progress of the world will recognize that the names of the French masters included in the volume are those which stand for the world's authority in learning. Scores of names are given which mean much doubtless to scholars, but the ordinary citizen recognizes de Lesseps, Eiffel, Carnot, Reclus, Blanchard, Curie, Lacroix, Michel-Levy, Voltaire, Michelet, Renault and Taine with their scores of followers. Darboux, Picard, Pasteur and hundreds of others in science tell their own story. Philosophy, history, political science and other fields of learning are known to the intelligent reader because of Binet, Jusserand, Bergson, Cornu, Bossert and scores of others who have contributed to French learning in every field.

An appendix to the volume gives interesting and valuable information of the various schools, libraries and museums particularly in Paris, and especially those fostered by the French Government as to requirements, advantages and opportunities offered by them to American students. Degrees and honors conferred, rules and regulations, etc., are all set out.

In offering the volume to the scholars of France, the scholars of America have honored themselves as well and provided a very valuable source of information too narrowly possessed heretofore by their predecessors.

The volume is well put up and is illustrated by portraits and photographs.

Safe for Democracy

Chairs of American walnut, patterned after a type of the Renaissance period, have arrived for the main reading room of the public library.

Ten are copied from chairs owned by Mrs W. K. Vanderbilt. They are richly carved and decorated in color characteristic of the Renaissance period. There are 207 of a plainer French pattern which bespeak a little later stage of the same period.

The chairs are in keeping with the quiet grandeur of this room reflected in the elegantly beaded bookcases and reading tables.—*St. Paul News*.

Library Schools

California state library

The fifth year of the California State library school began its course on September 24. Twelve students are enrolled in the class.

There are few changes in the curriculum. The mornings are devoted to lectures, and the afternoons to practice work in the different departments of the State library.

Outside lecturers: B. B. Futernick, of the bookbinding firm of Foster & Futernick, of San Francisco, will give several talks on binding.

Miss Jean Ross, librarian of the Sacramento high school library, will have a course of lectures on high school library work.

Miss Eleanor Hitt, librarian of the Yolo County free library, will talk on the administration of the county library.

Other special lectures will be given throughout the year, by librarians and others, covering library topics, and subjects of related interest.

Current event topics have been assigned to each student, to be looked up during the school term, and reported on at intervals in student talks. The topics deal with the war, in such phases as: The regeneration of Russia; war work in the universities; the suppression of German propaganda; labor unrest; regulating the food supply; American Red Cross; aeronautics in war; war work of women.

A plan is under way to organize the staff of the State library and the students of the library school into an informal society to do work for the Red Cross.

Margaret Dennison has left the State library to become assistant in the Colusa County free library.

Margaret Hatch has been appointed librarian of the Sutter County free library.

Lenala Martin has resigned her position as assistant in the Kern County free library, to take up a position of acting-librarian of Lassen County.

Miriam Colcord, formerly librarian of Lassen County, resigned to be married.

Carnegie library school

Dr Azariah S. Root, librarian of Oberlin College library, spoke to the school, September 27, 1917.

The entering class made a tour of the Carnegie Institute and main building of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh and visited the eight branch libraries of the system during the first week of the fall term.

The following number of students have matriculated for 1917-18:

Pennsylvania, 13; New York, 5; Michigan, 4; Texas, 3; Ohio, 3; Maryland, 2; Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Virginia and British Columbia, each 1.

Carnegie library of Atlanta

The thirteenth session of the library school opened on September 17, with the regular enrollment of 12 students with six states represented.

The school was represented at the Louisville conference of the A. L. A. by the Director and Miss Crumley, chief instructor.

Mrs Marie Fechet Kilburn, '17, has been elected librarian of the Public library, Talladega, Alabama.

Florence Eisele, '17, has become catalog clerk in the Ordnance Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Mrs Helen S. Torrence, '17, has been appointed assistant in the Public library, Greensboro, N. C.

Louise McGovern, '17, has been elected librarian in the State normal school, Farmville, Va.

Susan Lancaster, '07, has been appointed librarian of the Florida State college for women, Tallahassee.

May Smith, '14, has been appointed assistant in the library of the University of Georgia, Athens.

Alice Longshore, '16, has been appointed an assistant in the New York public library.

Theresa Hood, '11, has been appointed assistant in the Carnegie library, Atlanta.

F. Randolph Archer, '10, has resigned as librarian of the Public library, Talladega, Alabama, and will rest for a year.

Janet Berkeley, '14, has accepted a position of assistant in the Public library, Norfolk, Va.

Harriett Boswell, '16, and Isabel Davidson, '13, have registered for the senior course in the Library school of the New York public library.

Mrs Ernst Metzger (Nell Hendrich, '15) is cataloging the library of Flora Macdonald college, Red Springs, N. C.

Julia Schilling, '15, has been elected assistant librarian of the Savannah public library.

Mary Lindsay Thornton, '13, has accepted a position in the University of North Carolina library, Chapel Hill.

TOMMIE DORA BARKER,
Director.

University of Illinois

The University of Illinois library school began its twenty-fifth year of instruction on September 19. The school has the distinction of being the one unit in connection with that part of the University located at Urbana which has not only suffered no decrease in attendance, but has advanced its enrollment more than 11% above that of last year. Of the 49 students enrolled, the largest attendance since the entrance requirements were advanced to a Bachelor's degree in 1911, 15 are seniors and 34 are juniors. Forty are women, nine are men students, the largest number of men enrolled at the beginning of any year in the history of the school. Six possess the degree of M. A. and three are ranked as "special students," not fully meeting the entrance requirements.

The faculty this year has undergone some changes, the most notable one being the loss of Mr Reece. Mr Reece's resignation and the return of Miss Florence R. Curtis, who has been spending the past year at the University of Minnesota in graduate study, has necessitated certain changes in the distribution of the curriculum.

The members of last year's junior class have been appointed to the following positions:

Wintress Brennan, in charge of a branch of the Public library, Gary, Ind.

Ella S. Campbell, cataloger, Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical college, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Lillie Cilley, cataloger, University of Illinois library.

Florence M. Craig, assistant cataloger, University of Minnesota library, Minneapolis.

Ruth E. Hammond, cataloger, Public library, Hibbing, Minnesota.

Cena L. Sprague, cataloger, University of Illinois library.

Nelle M. Signor, cataloger, University of Illinois library.

Lois M. Woods, assistant cataloger, Leland Stanford university, Palo Alto, California.

The members of last year's junior class have been appointed to the following positions:

Clara L. Abernethy, reference assistant, Grinnell College library, Grinnell, Iowa.

Esther L. Bergen, Decatur public library.

Mary S. Buffum, assistant in the loan and periodical departments, University of Texas library, Austin.

Eleanor Davis, cataloger, University of Washington library, Seattle.

Jessie J. Glass, assistant, University of Nebraska library, Lincoln.

Julia E. Grothaus, assistant, Carnegie library, San Antonio, Texas.

Katherine Hitt, assistant, Blackstone branch of the Chicago public library.

Ruth C. McCaughtry, reference assistant, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Maude E. Nesbit, assistant in the Indianapolis public library.

Caroline Orvis, in charge of work with schools, Public library, Mason City, Iowa.

Harriet L. Ralston, assistant, Public library, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Charlotte Ryan, assistant, Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas.

Lola A. Shepard, assistant, Minneapolis public library.

Irene Steidl, librarian, Doane College library, Crete, Nebraska.

Frieda K. Williams, assistant, Ryerson library, Art Institute, Chicago.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant director.

Los Angeles

The class of 1918 commenced work on October 1 with the best record of any class so far in educational and professional preparation. Eight members are college graduates; six others have had from one to three years of college work; seven come with a background of library experience.

Aside from the extension of most of the important courses, the most radical change of the year will be in the arrangement of practical work. This has been reduced in amount in order to provide time for the increased class work and will be given in two separate periods of a week each during the second term. The month of practical work in June will be given as usual.

Six of the class of 1917 have positions in the Los Angeles public library, six in other California libraries and Miss Shearer is children's librarian in Marshalltown, Iowa.

THEODORA R. BREWITT,
Principal.

New York public library

The period of preliminary instruction and observation closed on Saturday, September 22, and on the following Monday the school year proper began. For the regular work 25 full-time and five part-time students are enrolled. Fourteen states and one foreign country are represented. Nine of the students are college graduates, and two others have had some college work.

Owing to the taking over of the direction of the training class by the library school it has become necessary to add to the faculty. To meet this need the school has secured the services of Miss Margaret Jackson, who received her certificate in the class of 1915 and has since been connected with the H. W. Wilson Company as editor of the *Book Review Digest*. Previous to entering library work Miss Jackson had for several years held an editorial position with the Century Company, and it is felt that her library training and wide general experience will be a decided asset to the school.

The work in the advanced courses opened on October 2. Four group-courses are being offered, namely *Administration*, *College library methods*, *and advanced reference and cataloging*, *School and children's library work*, and *Special libraries*. The instruction consists of four lecture periods a week, together with the usual requirements in the form of reading or problem work. Twenty-eight students are registered, all of whom hold full time positions on the staff of the New York public library and give two mornings per week to class appointments at the school.

The training class for junior assistants in the New York public library, now operating under the direction of the principal of the library school, offers work amounting to five class periods a week, the students spending the remainder of their time in practical work at various branches of the New York public library. One hour each per week is devoted to history, civic and social matters, and the organization of the New York public library and two to literary subjects, the instruction being given largely in the form of lectures.

New York state library

The thirty-first annual session began Sept. 19. The decrease in attendance directly traceable to war conditions is chiefly seen in the smaller number of young men enrolled. The total attendance is about as large as was expected. The senior class numbers 14; the junior class 26. There are 13 states and Norway, China and three provinces of Canada represented.

Eight senior elective courses are being taken this year. Several graduates of the school now on the staff of the New York state library are registered for courses beginning the latter half of the year.

The first visiting lecturer of the year was Miss Mary E. Downey of the Utah library commission, Oct. 8. Miss Downey gave a general talk dealing chiefly with essentials of commission work and library organization.

The series of senior seminar discussions on school library work has been reduced to six. The more detailed discussion of specific phases of school library work have been transferred to the new elective course in school library work.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt Institute

The class of 1918 represents 13 states of the Union and the province of British Columbia. Five are from Greater New York, two from "up the State," four from Pennsylvania, and one each from Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa and Oregon, while two come from the Canadian Northwest. It is one of the oldest classes and the most experienced class we have ever had. The average age is 27 years with a range of from 20 to 37 years, all but two have had some sort of library experience before coming, and only one is just out of school with no other than academic experience. Fourteen resigned library positions to come to the school. These facts have already begun to show in the class work. It has been possible to take more for granted and to go deeper into underlying prin-

ples than has ever before been my experience.

Seven of the class are college graduates and six others have had some college work. The colleges represented are Wells, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Northwestern, Wheaton, University of Wisconsin, George Washington, Adelphi, Elizabeth and Cheltenham college, England. There are two Normal school graduates, one graduate of Packer Institute, and several of other private schools.

The students were welcomed the first day of school, not only by the faculty and staff, but by greetings in the shape of a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the class of 1917 and a letter from the president of that class.

The class attended the first meeting of the New York library club on Thursday, October 11, and heard an interesting discussion on what the library can do for the blind.

The Vice-director gave a talk on Oct. 10 on "The librarian's care of herself" before the Library school of the New York public library.

Louise Richardson, '13, children's librarian of the Public library at Eveleth, Minn., has been made librarian of Meredith college, Raleigh, N. C.

Amelia H. Robie, '14, formerly grade school librarian and assistant in the children's room of the Cleveland public library, has accepted a position in the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Estelle L. Liebmann, '16, who for the past year has been file clerk at the Goldwyn Pictures Corporation, has been made librarian of the National Workmen's Compensation Service Bureau.

Lillian P. Nichols, '16, has been made an assistant in charge of the grade schools at the Public library of Mason City, Iowa.

Gladys Rush, '16, formerly reference librarian of the Public library at Sioux City, Iowa, has accepted the position of head of the circulation department at the Iowa State College library, Ames, Iowa.

Adria A. Hutchinson, '17, has returned as librarian to the Public library of Berlin, New Hampshire.

Mabel Wood, '17, formerly a junior assistant on the staff of the Cleveland public library, has returned to the system as first assistant in the West branch.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

St. Louis library school

The first session of the St. Louis library school opened Thursday, September 20 with 22 students, representing the following states: Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Eight of the students had practical library experience before entering the school; Miss Hynes, in Fort Smith, Ark.; Miss Barnes, in Purdue University library; Miss Hannaford, in Springfield, Ohio; Miss Davis, in Muskogee, Okla.; Miss Rodgers, in South Carolina library commission; Miss English, in Webster Groves, Mo.; Miss Donan and Miss Klinge, in St. Louis.

The students registered from St. Louis, Webster Groves and Kirkwood, Mo. were assigned practice work at the branch libraries, for two weeks, before the opening of the school.

Dr Theodore W. Koch, chief of the Order division, Library of Congress, introduced the series of lectures to be given by visiting librarians by speaking on War libraries.

Simmons college

College opened September 19 and the students entered into the campaign for camp library funds with such effect that Simmons contributed \$400 or 1 per cent of Boston's total. The allotment would have been \$55 on the 5 per cent basis.

A rearrangement of offices has been made, which adds to efficiency of administration. Eleanor Bednow Smith, A. B., Simmons, '16-17, has been added to the staff as a revisor. Miss Harriet Howe is in charge of the cataloguing course. Charles K. Bolton, after a year's leave of absence, resumed his course on the History of libraries, which will be devoted this year to foreign libraries, ancient and modern.

The registered students in the library school total 44 as again at 39 last year.

Visits have been made to binderies, the Art museum, Boston public library and the Library Bureau. Miss Ethel Johnson, librarian of the Woman's Educational and Industrial union, addressed the book selection class on the special problems of her library October 8.

The members of the staff of the Bos-

ton public library, as such, will be permitted to enter such courses or parts of courses, dealing with technical library subjects, as they may choose, fees being pro rata. No college credit will be granted except to those who offer the usual prerequisite.

Prof. Fujii visited the Library School October 11. Upon his return to Japan he expects to establish courses in library training.

A number of previous graduates have transferred from their previous positions.

Dorothy Bell, '16, resigned from the Irving-Casson special library, to succeed Stella Beal, '08, as librarian of the D. B. and W. C. Jackson special library. Miss Beal is going into business in Brockton with her brother.

Deane Blackshire, '17, has been appointed in the Public library, Burlington, Iowa.

Minnie Burke, '11, has been appointed on the staff of the Public library, Milton, Mass.

Ada Johnson, '17, has been appointed to the Mt. Holyoke College library.

Esther Kingsbury, '17, has accepted a position in the Gun division, Bureau of Ordnance, War department, Washington, D. C.

Jean P. Lane, '09-11, resigned from the Seattle public library to accept the position of librarian of the West Seattle high school.

Abbie Gammons, '10, has been appointed on the University of Arizona staff, and has resigned from the Boston Athenaeum.

Ruth Parker, '14, has received an appointment in the War department, Washington, D. C.

Mary E. Rogers, '16, has been put in charge of the children's room of the Epiphany branch, New York public library.

Ruth Shattuck, '10, resigned from the Brooklyn public library, to become head of the children's work in the Public library, New London, Conn.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,
Director.

Syracuse university

The Library school opened on Tuesday, September 18, with a total registration of 75. The entering class numbers 30, of which 23 take the four-year course and six only the two-year course, consisting almost entirely of technical work. Two are college graduates.

Announcement was made during the summer of the marriage of Georgia B. Carpenter, '07, to Charles H. Hageman; Ruth Jones, '15, to Earl R. Powers. Mr and Mrs Carpenter will live at Bismarck, North Dakota;

and Mr and Mrs Powers at 124 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.

Emma Kinne, '09, and Aimee Peters, '13, have resigned from the staff of the Syracuse University library to accept positions in Washington, Miss Kinne in the office of the Surgeon General, and Miss Peters in the War department.

Ethel Knight, '10 has resigned from the library of the U. S. Bureau of Education.

Flora Hodge, A. B., '17, is assistant librarian of the Mechanical and Agricultural college at College Station, Texas.

Sarah R. Line, A. B., '17, is librarian at Fairbury, Ill.

Emma Dibble and Evelyn Hart, '17, have positions in the government service at Washington.

Laura Merriman, '17, is librarian at Newark, N. Y.

E. E. SPERRY,
Director.

University of Washington

On account of the adoption of the Four quarter system at the University of Washington, the library school opens this year October 1.

Helen Lathe, '16, has been appointed a member of the cataloging staff of the Seattle public library.

Ruth Reynolds, '16, has been transferred from the schools division of the Seattle public library to become children's librarian of the Ballard branch library.

Frances Woodworth, '17, has resigned from the Walla Walla public library to join the staff of the Public library, Victoria, British Columbia. Hazel Jones, '17, has been appointed to fill the vacancy at Walla Walla.

Beatrice Mercer, '16, has been appointed librarian of the Ballard high school, Seattle.

Esther Hammond, '17, has taken a position in the circulation department of the Tacoma public library.

The following members of the class of '17 have been added to the staff of the Central Seattle public library: Agnes H. Bush, reference; Mary Walker, branch; Dorothy Grout, schools; Roberta Meredith, circulation; Margaret Schumacher, circulation; Corinne Ruttle, children.

W. E. HENRY,
Director.

Western Reserve University

The course is one year in length and the number of students is limited. General training is given in the elementary subjects of library economy, with public library problems especially in view. An entrance examination is required; the minimum educational preparation is a High School course or the equivalent.

The opening exercises of the four-

teenth year of the school were held on the afternoon of September 18. President Thwing, Miss Eastman and the Director extended a welcome to the class, which is composed of 26 regular and two partial time students, representing the following states: Ohio, 14 (9 from Cleveland); Illinois, 2; Indiana, 2; Iowa, 1; Minnesota, 1; Missouri, 1; New York, 2; Ontario, Can., 1; Pennsylvania, 3; Vermont, 1.

The resignation of Miss Harriet E. Howe was reluctantly accepted at the close of the school year.

Miss Thirza E. Grant, who has been assistant instructor, has been advanced to head instructor and Miss Ruth M. Willard has come to take up the work of assistant instructor. Miss Willard has had varied library experience since receiving her training at the New York State library school, in the Grinnell College library, as organizer for the Iowa library commission and in branch library work in Minneapolis.

George F. Strong, librarian of Adelbert college, W. R. U., who has given the reference course in the school for seven years, has been given leave of absence to organize the Camp Beauregard library, at Alexandria, Louisiana; the reference course will be given this year by Miss Bessie H. Shepard, head of the reference division of the Cleveland public library.

The class of 1917 are in positions in the following libraries:

Detroit public library: Florence D. Burgy, Frances S. McCulloch and Mildred B. Potter; Chicago public library: Charlotte E. Hartmann; Pittsburgh public library: William McC. McKee; Cincinnati Mercantile library: Hildegard Perkins; Ft. Wayne public library: Louise C. Pickard; Minneapolis public library: Mildred L. Thomas; New York public library: Frieda J. Yelgerhouse; East Cleveland public library: Gladys English; Lakewood public library: Gladys E. Keller; Adelbert College library, W. R. U., Cleveland: Eunice E. Cooper; Western Reserve Historical Society library, Cleveland: Annie J. Oldham; Cleveland public library: Margaret Cleaveland, Mary F. Fuller, Helen L. Funnell, Gladys R. Haskin, Helen L. Plasman, Anna J. Sloan. Three are completing college work: Louise G. Adams, Mabel M. Rieley and Edith Wirt-schafter.

Recent placements of graduates are as follows:

Ethel F. Bowers, '16, reference librarian, University of Idaho.

Nina C. Brotherton, '07, supervisor of work with schools, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Victoria Bronson, '14, head of stations department, Public library, Decatur, Ill.

Esther H. Burns, '16, Legislative reference, State library, Columbus, O.

Margaret E. Calfee, '14, High school librarian, Kansas City, Mo.

Louise E. Grant, '16, assistant librarian, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio.

Audiene Graham, '13, librarian, Scovell, Wellington & Company, Industrial Engineers, Boston.

Jane I. Kuhns, '16, librarian, Stewart public library, Grinnell, Iowa.

Anna E. Peterson, '16, assistant librarian, Public library, Virginia, Minn.

Martha Wilson, '05, librarian, Woodland branch, Cleveland public library.

Cards have been received by the school announcing the marriages of:

Helen R. Harsh, '15, to Milo E. Terry, Van Wert, Ohio.

Ruth M. Ellis, '10, to Eugene S. Mayer, Youngstown, Ohio.

ALICE S. TYLER,
Director.

University of Wisconsin

The Library school in common with the rest of the library world mourns the death of its first director, Henry Eduard Legler. It was his enthusiasm and vision that finally secured the foundation of the school and carried it through the early years of its organization. His loss is keenly felt.

Several faculty changes were made at the opening of the year. Mr M. S. Dudgeon has entered the country's service as Director of camp libraries with headquarters at Washington. The two vacancies on the faculty caused by the acceptance of Miss Carpenter's and Miss Humble's resignations have been filled by the appointment of Miss Jessie Welles and Miss Julia Wright Merrill. Both bring special training and large experience to their appointments. Miss Welles is a graduate of Pratt Institute library school and has been head of the circulation department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. She organized the apprentice class of the Public library of

Toledo and laid the foundations for a county library system in Lucas county, Ohio. Miss Merrill graduated from the library school of the University of Illinois, served three years on the Wisconsin library commission and Legislative library and as instructor in the summer sessions. For 10 years, she has been connected with the Cincinnati public library, for the last eight holding the position of chief branch librarian.

Instruction for the year began on September 26, with a class numbering 34. There are 11 States and Canada represented as follows: 15 from Wisconsin, 4 each from Illinois and Indiana, 2 each from Iowa and Michigan and 1 each from California, Georgia, Idaho, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Canada. Eleven of the class are college graduates, 10 are seniors in the University, whose work in the library will complete their credits for their A. B. There are 27 altogether who have the college point of view, and 15 of the students have had library experience of from 6 months to 12 years. The others met the entrance requirements, a minimum of two months' work in approved libraries.

The class of 1917 has furnished the following.

Hazel E. Armstrong, assistant, Normal School library, Terre Haute, Ind.

Marjorie Carlton, assistant, public library, Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, Calumet, Mich.

Mrs Florence H. Davis, librarian, Public library, Bismarck, N. Dak.

Jessie P. Jenks, librarian, State Normal school, Wayne, Nebr.

Harriet L. Kidder, assistant cataloger, Iowa State Teachers' college, Cedar Falls.

Emilie Mueser, organizer, Lucas County library, Maumee, Ohio.

Josephine E. Risser, assistant, Lyndale branch, Minneapolis public library.

Helen S. Stevenson, assistant, Public library, Elkhart, Ind.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

Quotations from a writer whose work is helpful to librarians:

Be ye transformed by the renewal of your minds.

And again: For I have learned from the wise and the unwise.

Department of School Libraries

A Study on the Use of Simple Reference Books, Grade 8*

Lesson 1.

The Text-book

History of books.

1. Durable.

Stone tablets—Ten commandments.
Clay baked—Chaldeans.
Skin of goats—Scroll.
Papyrus.

2. Paper (10th century).

3. Present form.

Title page.

Author.

Title.

Publisher.

Copyright.

Contents.

Preface or introduction.

Chapter—Paragraph—Sentence.

Footnote—Glossary—Appendix.

Index.

4. How to read for a subject; for a thought.

Example—Get thought from a paragraph.

5. How to take notes—Copying—Reproduction.

Lesson 2.

The Dictionary

1. Who wrote it—Explain “compiler.”

2. Its use—

1. Spelling.
2. Pronunciation.
3. Derivation.
4. Parts of speech.
5. Declension.
6. Definition.

7. Shades of meaning. Example—Geom. Mus. obs. Law.

8. Examples of use of word (Quotations).

9. Syn—Synonym.

10. Illustrations.

3. How to use it—Finger guides—Spell correctly—Know alphabet.

4. Compare Webster—Standard—Century.

The Encyclopedia

1. Who wrote it. Explain “Editor” (Author of articles, editor of whole).

2. Its use—

1. Contains information on subjects. Explain meaning of “subject”—History, geography, etc.
2. Arrangement alphabetical.
3. Gives facts in concise form, sometimes pronunciation, illustrations and maps.

*Reprinted by request from PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 18:110.

4. Subdivision of articles (paragraphing).
5. Lettering on back of volumes—Cross reference.
3. Compare briefly New International—Universal—Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Atlas and Gazetteer

Define—Atlas—Gazetteer.

1. Maps.

2. Description.

Test questions for practice work.

1. Find something about Abraham Lincoln.
2. Spell shellac.
3. Syllabize telephone.
4. Spell judgment.
5. What is the meaning of “nice”?
6. What is a doge?
7. What are his duties?
8. What is the longitude and latitude of Cincinnati?
9. What is the vegetation of the Philippine Islands?
10. Look up dragoon in dictionary—encyclopedias.

Lesson 3.

1. Poole's index.

Who wrote it—Compiler.

How Mr. Poole began his index. Librarian of Public library of Cincinnati and our large collection of periodicals. *Reader's Guide*, a continuation. Explain cumulation.

2. Its use—

The index is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Note name of periodical, volume and page.

Show monthly and yearly volumes.

Economy in Libraries

The following notice has been issued by the Public library of Newark, N. J.:

The Public library has decided to ask the people of Newark to help it economize in a way that will not work any hardship upon any user of the library. It has been the custom of the library, as a matter of courtesy, to send postal and letter notices for overdue books. The sending of these notices costs a great deal of money, not only in the stationery and postage used, but also in the clerical work required.

The Public library now asks all borrowers to return books when due, without reminder.

This new scheme will take effect immediately. It is hoped that all users of the library will see the necessity for this economy and will co-operate with the library. The money thus saved will be put into books, a far better use for it than to remind people of their obligations.

News From the Field East

Gertrude Whittemore, N. Y. State, '06-'07, has resigned the librarianship of the Narragansett library association, Peace Dale, R. I., to accept a similar post in the Pequot library, Southport, Conn.

A course of 54 free lectures will be given at the Boston public library during the period, October 2 to April 11.

In addition the Ruskin club will give 14 free lectures at the Public library.

Lectures will also be given throughout the winter in the lecture hall of the branch libraries. The lectures on Thursday evenings are always illustrated by lantern slides.

The report of the Public library, Bangor, Maine, records not only a satisfactory year, but the avoidance of a threatened crisis in the history of the institution. The book fund became exhausted, but the income from the new endowment available at the last of the year provides \$6,000 annually for the purchase of books. Traveling libraries for the rural schools were established during the year.

Activities include increased coöperation with the Bangor Theological seminary and University of Maine; extension of the course of instruction of high school pupils and a special class in cataloging open to the library assistants and substitutes, from which future appointments are to be made from those doing the work.

The annual report of the City Library association of Springfield, Mass., records accessions, 20,014; circulation, 842,154; books on shelves, 228,990; number of card holders, 41,008. Books have been supplied to the soldiers encamped nearby. Lists of helpful books on various domestic activities for housework and thrift have been printed and distributed. Books helpful to manufacturers and business men of all kinds have been added to the shelves—lists of technical books, scientific management, factory organization, exporting. Ambitious young workmen in large numbers have been furnished with reading matter to fit them for ad-

vancement in their trades or calling. Exhibitions of commercial artists of the city, loan collection paintings from outside and treasures of olden times such as shawls, coverlets, embroideries, etc., have been held. Advance notices are posted on the bulletin board of musical events, noteworthy lectures, etc., in Springfield, New York and Boston.

Central Atlantic

Ursula K. Johnstone, Pratt Normal course, '13, is registrar of the British consulate in New York.

Marian R. Glenn, Pratt '07, has assumed the editorship of the Business Woman's page of *Forbes Magazine*.

Ethel I. Burwell, N. Y. State, '12-'13, has been chosen as librarian of Goucher College library, Baltimore, Md.

Ida Mendenhall, Pratt '04, was married on August 25, to William Beseler and is living in Anaheim, Cal.

Gladys V. Lloyd, an assistant in the New York State library school from 1912 to 1916, died October 9 after an illness of more than a year.

Ella B. Cook, Pratt '14, has just resigned the position of reference librarian of the Trenton public library to accept that of assistant to the organizer of the New Jersey public library commission.

Sheldon Fletcher, New York public library, '15-'17, has resigned her place in the Aguilar branch of the New York public library, to become a high school librarian in the Newark public library.

Miss Anne Eaton, for seven years librarian of the University of Tennessee, has resigned her position to become librarian of the Lincoln library of Teachers' College, New York city.

Edith M. Morgan, Illinois, '12-'13, librarian of the Colorado State normal school at Gunnison, has received an appointment in the War department in Washington, D. C.

Eleanor H. Frick, Pratt '95, secretary of the Joint committee on classification of technical literature of the United Engineering society, has resigned and has returned to the staff of the American society of civil engineers.

Miss Romana K. McManis, formerly librarian of Tyler, Texas, has been appointed reference librarian for the Board of Foreign Missions for the M. E. church with an office at 150 Fifth avenue, New York City.

Mary C. Richardson, N. Y. State, '10-'11, resigned the librarianship of the Lewis and Clark high school, Spokane, to succeed Miss Mendenhall as librarian of the State normal school at Genesee, N. Y.

J. Peterson Ryder has been appointed librarian of Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, to succeed Miss Elizabeth Clark, resigned. Mr Ryder has been head of the boys gymnasium at Drexel for many years.

Edna B. Pratt, for some time organizer for the New Jersey library commission, resigned her position to take charge of Public library interests in Passaic, New Jersey. Miss Pratt succeeds Elizabeth H. White, who resigned after a five-year service, to be married.

Dr. A. H. Shearer, for the past five years assistant librarian of the Newberry library, Chicago, has been appointed librarian of the Grosvenor library, Buffalo, New York.

This library forms the scholarly reference library of Buffalo and with adequate means and reorganization has a very bright outlook.

Dr George W. Harris, librarian emeritus of Cornell university, died October 11, aged 68. He was connected with the library of Cornell University from 1873 until his death. He began as assistant librarian. He was acting librarian from 1883 to 1890 and university librarian until 1915 when he became librarian emeritus. In his 42 years of service Mr Harris never left the university for any extended period, nor had he ever been absent on sick leave. The library contained 34,000v. when he came to its service and he saw it grow to more than 475,000v., the fourth largest library in the country.

Central

M. Zeliaette Troy, Illinois, B. L. S.,

'15, librarian of the Public library, Hoopeston, Illinois, since September, 1915, has resigned.

Azalea Clizbee, New York public library, '12-14, has been engaged to catalog the private library of W. L. Clements at Bay City, Michigan.

Esther L. Bergen, who was in University of Illinois library school last year, has been appointed head of the loan work in Public library, Decatur, Illinois.

The new Central library building of Indianapolis was dedicated Sunday afternoon, October 7, with appropriate exercises. Dr Arthur E. Bostwick of St. Louis made the principal address.

Corinne Aldrich, formerly assistant in the Stations department of the Public library, Detroit, has been appointed engineering librarian of the State college, Ames, Iowa.

Julia W. Merrill, Illinois, B. L. S., '03, for several years Chief branch librarian of the Cincinnati public library, has accepted an appointment with the Wisconsin Free library commission.

Blanche Robertson, Illinois, '13-14, has resigned from her position as assistant in the Drake University library to become librarian of Simpson college, Indianola, Iowa.

Victoria Bronson, Western Reserve, '14, and since then connected with the Cleveland public library, has taken charge of the extension work of the Public library, Decatur, Illinois.

Zana K. Miller, librarian of Spies public library, Menominee, Mich., spent the summer in Honolulu on a seven months' leave of absence. She will return to her position about November 1.

Mary A. Nichols, Illinois, '15-16, has resigned from her position on the staff of the Minneapolis public library to become an assistant in the Public library, Hibbing, Minnesota.

Adah Patton, Illinois, B. L. S., '02, since 1908 a member of the staff of the cataloging department of the University of Illinois library, has been appointed

catalog librarian to succeed P. S. Goulding, resigned.

South

Frances Young, New York public library, '13-15, has accepted the position of first assistant in the Public library of Montgomery, Alabama.

Miss Edith A. Phelps, for 12 years librarian of the Public library of Oklahoma City, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie library, Tyler, Texas.

Dey B. Smith, Illinois, '14-15, librarian of the Public Library, Morris, Illinois, for the past two years, has resigned in order to accept an appointment with the Cincinnati public library.

Pearl A. Stone, Illinois, '15-16, succeeds Miss Smith at Morris.

Argo, Illinois, a factory town south of Chicago, opened its new public library, October 23. Miss Vivien Diefenderfer, a graduate of Syracuse University library school, formerly employed in the public library, Buffalo, N. Y., has charge of the organization work and will continue as librarian.

The Board of Directors of the Chicago public library has taken action to erect on the West Side the first of the regional library buildings planned by the late Henry Eduard Legler. It will be named in his honor.

The building will cost over \$75,000, will be stocked with 50,000 volumes, and will be the distributing center for all the West Side branches.

Mabel A. Thain, for 12 years librarian of Oak Park, Ill., died October 3 after a painful illness. Miss Thain had been connected with the library for 20 years. She was prominent in the religious and intellectual life of the community, was a member of the A. L. A. and the Chicago library club and was first vice-president of the Illinois library association at the time of her death.

The annual report of the Public library of Superior, Wisconsin, records a circulation of 165,384 volumes, making a circulation of 3.5 v. per capita; of this 43 per cent is non-fiction. Lessons were

given to high school students on the use of the library. There was a circulation of 73,265 v. among juveniles; 37 per cent of the adult circulation was from the library stations. The library was advertised by displays in windows and car waiting-rooms and announcements by schools and clergymen.

The St Louis library report covers a year of active work.

The library now contains 487,336v and gave out during the year 2,310,075v, including supplementary reading issued to schools. Among other interesting news items are the distribution of introduction cards to newly naturalized citizens and cards of invitation to transients; the agreement of the Board of education to construct certain school buildings in future with quarters for branch libraries and the increase and betterment of the parcel post service.

The establishment of the St Louis library school superseding the training class is noted.

The new central library building in St. Paul was dedicated Wednesday, October 10. The library was open for inspection from 3 until 10 p. m. A committee of representatives of the leading civic and business organizations and women's clubs were present to assist the library staff in receiving visitors in their inspection of the new building.

A flag raising conducted by the Boy Scouts preceded the formal exercises. At the latter, addresses were made by the president of the St. Paul association, by a representative of the Library board of 1863, by the architect, by the mayor, by the Commissioner of education, and by the librarian. A congratulatory address was presented by a representative of the Board of trustees of the Public library of Minneapolis.

At 8 o'clock there was an address by Dr Marion L. Burton, president of the University of Minnesota.

During the same week three new branch library buildings also were dedicated, exercises for the children being held in the afternoon, and for adults in the evening.

The training class of the Public library, Louisville, began its work October 15 with 10 students. Two members from Kentucky libraries outside of Louisville were admitted.

Miss Myrtle Cole, who has been librarian of the Public library at Raton, New Mexico, for several years, has resigned to be married. Miss Evelyn Shuler, who had been Miss Cole's assistant, has been elected her successor.

West

Miss Grace Reely of Missoula has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Deerlodge, Montana.

Miss Charlotte Matson of Minneapolis has been elected legislative reference librarian of the North Dakota library commission.

A Denver firm shortened the working day one hour for two of its office secretaries on condition that that hour be spent in the Public library's reference room.

Ruth Cowgill, Pratt '11, who has been since graduation cataloger at the Kansas State Historical Society library, has recently accepted the position of cataloger at the Chouteau County free library, Fort Benton, Montana.

Elizabeth Forrest, Illinois, B. L. S. '06, after a year in graduate study at the University of Chicago, received the M. A. degree this summer, and returned to her position as librarian of the Montana State college at Bozeman.

The Public library of Denver in answer to a protest entered by the Colorado chapter of the D. A. R. has withdrawn Hamlin Garland's book, *A Son of the Middle Border*, from its shelves. Objection to the circulation of the book is made on account of a slurring remark about the American flag.

Miss Julia C. Stockett, for some time connected with the Wisconsin library commission, has been made field librarian of the South Dakota library commission. Miss Stockett succeeds Miss Lois Spencer, who was married in August to Prof

H. C. Severin, of the State Agricultural college, South Dakota.

Pacific Coast

The Tacoma public library has a large number of duplicate agricultural experiment station bulletins which it will be glad to send to any library or libraries needing them free of cost except for the parcel post expense involved.

Mary Frances Carpenter of the Wisconsin library commission has resigned to fill temporarily the position of cataloger and reference librarian in the Library of Hawaii. She went to Honolulu in April on a seven months' leave of absence to classify and catalog the pamphlet section of the Hawaiian Historical society and to substitute in the library of Hawaii during the summer months. She has been connected with the Wisconsin library school since its organization, as a member of its faculty and also a library visitor for the commission.

Sarah M. Jacobus, librarian of the Public library, Pomona, California, in the twenty-seventh annual report records the number of volumes, 34,127; circulation, 123,652, the largest in the history of the library; card holders, 6,845; receipts, \$18,641; expenditures \$3,205; books, \$2,842; periodicals, \$363; clerical salaries, \$6,478. Two branches have been established.

Of all the forms of publicity used by this library, that yielding the best results is the postcard notice to individuals known to be interested in given lines. Eight out of ten call for the books offered. Other advertising reaches more people, but its results can not be so definitely measured.

Foreign

News of the death of Mr Henry Bond, Hon. Secy. of the Library Association (British) and editor of the *Association Record*, has just been received.

William Webb, B. L. S. New York State, '16, has reached France and is at work as a member of the Reconstruction unit sent out under the auspices of the Society of Friends.